

# SEVEN DAYS

SOUND  
ADVICE

Fla. mayor draws F-35s  
PAGE 12

## THE WONDERING JEW



For UVM prof Richard Sugarman,  
life's big questions are the  
sweetest pursuit

BY KEN PICARD, P.32



**HOMELESS HAVEN**

PAGE 14

Checking in at Fletcher Free



**GET IT ON!**

PAGE 20

The 2013 Sex Survey



**BRAND WAGON**

PAGE 30

VT's food cachet still growing



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WEEK IN REVIEW

04/03/2018 10:40:00 AM



## Bernie vs. Vallee

**U**S Sen. Bernie Sanders held another press conference on Monday to rail against fuel dealers he claims are overcharging for gasoline in northeastern Vermont. But this time, one of his canards hit back — hard.

**Slap Victim:** The owner of nearly 40 Motel 6 locations around the state has produced a 30-second political attack ad accusing Sundeen of slapping with "big business" to damage the state's investment. As Paul Hantz reported Tuesday on Seven Days Blog Off Message, Notice is threatening to spend a chunk of cash to put facial on the air (for the moment, it's only viewable on YouTube) and on the *Greenhouse* website.

Since he launched his campaign against fast dealers in July, Sanders has been duking it out with Volvo's marketing. He's also been frustrated

who was appointed ambassador to Slovakia under President George W. Bush. Sanders has criticized Valicek for attempting to block Caterpillar from building a self-storage station in Oakchester — just a stone's throw away from one of Valicek's own Maplefield gas stations.

In Walker's and a partner says, "Garnie added with a multinational, billion-dollar corporation over Vermonters — supporting development that will increase traffic and killing mammals and pheasants roost in Lake Champlain, leading to more, since business."

The pilot includes a diving scenario to take action and tell Garcia his version, ending with her response.

Responding to the oil slick, a Sanders staffer said the senator 'finds it amusing to be attacked' by someone who 'lacked basic knowledge of the coast'

anti-environmentalists and sceptics

At a news conference earlier in the day, the senator said the distributors — "kiddie" among them — "have created a nonstop, 24-hour environment" and are unfairly taking cash strapped Americans.

And it's a little ironic for a major pro-life cause to be concerned about the environmental impact of a competing business—not to mention the environmental record of a liberal U.S. senator. Mr. Malloy told *News*:

Tallies in compliance with environmental regulations that apply whenever we're drilling gas. Valles said, "Our argument is, the Cactus project doesn't comply with those." Read more — and watch YouTube! — at [www.enr.com/stories/resources](http://www.enr.com/stories/resources)

## facing facts



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

Reports about serial killer David Meyer get more disturbing by the day. It's got to be torture for the families of his victims.



附錄 1 目錄

Later, as Bushington defended the Twitter tweet where media giant Bloomberg TV tried to steal our office building, @bushington wrote:



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Newport Spurred  
and it will  
reimburses the  
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Byline: John, Joseph



ACT ANSWER

A bunch of NFLers heading to Florida this week to have the F-16 fighter jets for themselves. Too bad we can't all have a chance.

**PACIFIC PACE EDITION**  
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**6** That's how many years in a row Vermont has been named the healthiest U.S. state by the United Health Foundation.



## TOP FIVE

NOTES

- 1 **End Unemployment Insurance on Private**  
**End of Recessing Insurance?** By Ken M. Kelly  
Whether you agree or not, I am a big fan of Unemployment Insurance. It's the only way you can
- 2 **Work Less Hours, Pay Your Employer More**  
**Work Less Hours, Pay Your Employer More**  
By Charles J. Gribble  
I don't know if you agree or not, but I think that's a good idea. I think it's a good idea.
- 3 **Working in the U.S. is a Good Thing**  
**Working in the U.S. is a Good Thing**  
By Charles J. Gribble  
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worsening than burning oil, coal and natural gas combined. According to Aikaterini Ogino at the Graduate School of Agriculture in Kyoto, as reported in *New Scientist*, "a kilogram of beef is responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution than driving for three hours while leaving all the lights on back home." Eighty-seven percent of these emissions can be eliminated by a vegan diet (compared to a more eight-percent reduction achieved by eating "sustainable" or locally raised meat and dairy). Asking churches and colleges to divest from energy companies, while ignoring what's on your own plate, is both morally and ecologically unwise. The day that McKibben and 250 colleagues to promote a vegan diet will be the day they get serious about the real causes of climate change.

Gary Krawcheck  
BURLINGTON

## CONFLICTS ALL AROUND

While I appreciate concerns over former sex offenders, the attention paid to them is over the top (per game, "Offender Bender," November 24). The suggestion that journalists are different from people in any other profession is, sadly, a fantasy if all journalists were subjected to background checks and all that information published for all to see, then fine.

It's also possible that, in this case, the ex-offender has some unique insights in covering other offenders. Journalists have conflicts of interest all the time, and the public deserves to know about them. However, suggesting that an ex-offender is special doesn't cut it. Either journalists are like all employees, and it's no one else's business, or all should submit to checks for all to see.

You have to ask yourself why you brought this up in the first place. Was it for honest public discourse on the state of journalism or because you could use the phrase "sex offender" to get more eyes on the article? This article itself indicts what journalism has become, simply printing words that get market share.

Leah Whitmore  
CARY, N.C.

## IRISH ATE

I don't know which Irish protests Dublin Leanne attended, but it is especially not the case that pro-choice activists responded to Devin Halpin's death by calling only for civilizing legislation. [Irish Post, December 5]. At each of the four protests in Dublin after Devin's death, you made public speakers and

speeches called loudly for repeal of the 8th Amendment, which prohibits abortion in all cases other than where a woman's life is threatened. Perhaps if Levine had considered Irish pro-choice activists before writing this piece, this could have been clarified for her.

Wendy Lyon  
DUBLIN, IRELAND

## TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES

As someone whose family has shreds around most of its own food while burning and trading with neighbors, I and Kathryn Plagis agree with interest [in *Kinder KILL*, November 24]. And I agree with letter-writer Ben Hewitt [Frontback, November 24] that on-farm slaughter, an integral part of the genuine local food system that has always been part of Vermont culture, should continue.

The irony however is that Hewitt's fast-food book, *The Town that Food Saved: How Our Community Found Viability in Local Food*, has been instrumental in drawing the attention of regulators eager to put an end to all noncommercial economic activity. Now Hewitt is posing as the champion of a cause he helped to undermine.

The kind of "local" food system Hewitt promotes—an upscale boutique version of the industrial food system, cleverly marketed with the buzzwords of the day—comes with a long list of negative consequences. The potential demise of on-farm slaughter is only one among them.

As long as there are those who will exploit Vermont's food system for their self-aggrandizement and profit, we will surely see the steady erosion of the healthy, neighborhood authentic local food relationships that have made Vermont a wonderful place to live.

Jane Rogers  
WALDEN

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THURSDAY 13

## CREATIVITY, CUISINE, COMMUNITY

As part of their curriculum at the Integrated Arts Academy in Burlington, third graders transform found clay into more than 200 bowls. From sales function at the **Pot the Bowl Dinner and Silent Auction**, which benefits Hunger Free Vermont, attendees use these vessels to dine on soup and bread donated by area volunteers, then place bids on locally made pottery.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 54



## WEDNESDAY 19 Wise Words

Author **Mad Bookend** says many hold — director of the Five Seasons Institute for professional development, trainer and author among them. Her newest book, *Natural Guidance: A Workbook System for Uncovering Your Strengths and Acting Upon Them*, introduces what Bookend calls a “method of human dynamics.” She discusses how these principles create change on a personal level and in the workplace.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 54

3

## FRIDAY 14 & SATURDAY 15 Holidays Their Way

Looking to change things up? Directors of Center for the Dramatic Arts **A Very Wet May** in a seasonal romp performed by Sean-Candle Theatre Company. The MacFarlands and others, including musicians People with Faces and bandleader Alvaro Luthier. The ME for the evening? Why Santa himself of course.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 54

4

SUNDAY 16

## Music Man

Acclaimed vocalist and multi-instrumentalist **Tim Kinsman** is as prolific as he is prolific. Inspired by traditional regional music and his studies in ethnomusicology, Kinsman explores various interpretations of the Americana sound. St. Michaels College professor William Lee Elkins opens for the folkies, who presents selections from his *Star in the East* album.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 54

5

## FRIDAY 14-SUNDAY 16 Here and There

Step to your left! Meet in 10th-year SEADMs **South End Holiday** shop brings more than 30 creative businesses and art studios together in a celebration of local artists and craftsmen. Offerings range from stockinguffers to artwork too large to be shipped — and everything in between. Festivities include live music and demonstrations from participating locations.

SEE STATE OF THE ARTS ON PAGE 52

6

FRIDAY 14

## Green Mountain Grooves

When **Rae Hoyer** moved to Vermont 16 years ago, a quiet life surrounded by nature allowed him to hone his super-sensory skills. Discovering the electric bongo led to what he calls “mountain soul” — a blend of both the Santa Claus and the rock roots. Hoyer and special guests perform at Tupelo House Hall in White River Junction.

SEE MUSIC LISTING ON PAGE 74

7

FRIDAY 14 & SATURDAY 15

## Leapin' Lizards!

The sun will come out tomorrow. **Devon Hagen** breaks down the award-winning *Buttland Vlogs* Theatre in the Medical Arts, accompanied by live orchestra. Taylor Angellides and Morgan Realize star as **Quay** and **Amie**, respectively. The performers put a twisted twist on the story of the endearing orphan and her many adventures.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 54





## Forgive Us Our Trespasses

In the year since Barton Chronicle publisher **CHRIS BRAITHWAITE** was arrested covering a low power protest atop Lowell Mountain, the Northeast Kingdom journalist says he's spent \$30,000 defending himself against a trespassing charge he believes never should have been brought.

His also spent plenty of time ago racing over whether the incident has marred his professional reputation. "I think that's question hanging over you of whether you conducted your business in a legal fashion," Braithwaite says.

On the eve of his trial last week, an Orleans County prosecutor suddenly dropped the charge against Braithwaite, offering little explanation for the decision. The decision came just days after Braithwaite's attorney received a cache of internal emails he subpoenaed from Green Mountain Power — developer of Lowell's Kingdom Community Wind project and the landowner on whose property the protest took place.

These emails, which were first reported by the *Colchester Record on Friday* and uncensored by a judge Monday, indicate that Green Mountain Power lock-ups sought to prevent Braithwaite's arrest, contrary to the actions of the company's on-the-ground supervisor.

Now Braithwaite's lawyer, **PHILIP WHEAT**, is wondering why it took so long for GMP to set the record straight.

"I do believe that Green Mountain Power, when they saw Chris facing criminal charges, would have notified the state's attorney that it was their intent that he be allowed to cover this event and that he not be arrested," Wheat says. "And they done so promptly. Chris never would have faced criminal charges. It's a pretty serious matter when somebody — especially a working journalist — is swept up in an arrest and has to live that kind of charge."

Six of the protesters Braithwaite was covering were each arrested that day. On Tuesday, they were each sentenced to 25 hours of community service.

In the newly disclosed emails, which were sent several days after the December 7, 2010 protest and arrests, GMP corporate officials expressed frustration with those running the company's wind project for embarking on a public relations crisis.

"If Chris was not here [sic] arrested the other arrests would likely have been a non event," GMP government affairs

director **ROBERT SCOTT** wrote project manager **CHARLES PARRIS** on December 10. "Frankly I don't understand why Chris was arrested since you gave exact instructions that he not be. This week the Communication team here [sic] spent a lot of time and energy dealing with this."

Scott, a former state legislative leader, warned Parris that if GMP arrested trespassers without warning, "we look like the bad guys and we give the protesters just what they want. They are doing that because they want to money as in hopes we become aggressive and they can show everyone what a mean and arrogant foreign-owned company they are so we are."

### BARTON CHRONICLE PUBLISHER CHRIS BRAITHWAITE AND HIS ATTORNEY BELIEVE IT WAS THE DISCLOSURE OF GMP'S INTERNAL EMAILS THAT KILLED THE STATE'S CASE.

In another email sent the next day to several GMP executives, Dennis noted that the company "gave the explicit instruction that Chris was not to be arrested."

According to the officer who made the arrests, GMP's directive to spare Braithwaite never made it to low enforcement officials. Orleans County chief deputy sheriff **PAUL MONROE** says that if the company had told him to, he would have left Braithwaite alone.

"One of the questions I asked when we got there was, 'Are there any exceptions?' — not at all thinking about the press — but certainly, 'Is there anyone you will allow have?' Brooks responds. "The answer to me was an unconditional 'no exceptions.'"

GMP communications manager **DAVID JORDAN**, the company's point man on the incident that day, confessed Brooks' account in a sworn deposition last May.

"I said, you know, I told the deputy sheriff who we had on-site and that we couldn't have people who were unauthorized on our site, on the site, so in that context, yes, there was no exceptions," Correll said in the deposition.

If Correll's bosses didn't want Braithwaite arrested, why didn't he relay that to the sheriff? GMP consultant **STEVE TURNER**, a former *Randall Herald* editor, asked Correll that same question in an email following the arrest.

Correll responded with a half explanation. "It didn't get relayed to all the officers involved," he wrote.

Correll argued that Braithwaite had been cornered: arrest by ignoring demands to leave the property, swarming at Brooks and then walking toward the protesters.

"I don't care who you are, if you call a police officer an explosive [sic], your chances of getting arrested increase," Correll wrote to "Dury." "His step [sic] over a professional line."

A year after the incident, GMP spokeswoman **SCOTT MONROE** says she still has no idea why the message to leave Braithwaite alone was not relayed to Deputy Sheriff Brooks. But she believes Correll did, in fact, tell somebody in law enforcement.

She's just not sure when. "I think what it comes down to is we ourselves don't know exactly when the breakdown occurred," Schure says. "[Correll] did tell someone, but communications were difficult that morning. Being on the mountain, no cellphone coverage, not knowing what's what."

Correll, who previously served as a spokesman for former governor **2004 ROMULO**, left the company last summer to go to law school. He declined to comment on the incident.

Reached Monday, the deputy state's attorney who prosecuted the case, **ANDREA BAKER**, cited Correll's absence as her reason for dropping the charge — not the GMP emails she had received just days before.

"I attempted to contact [Correll] but I'm not self-sufficient when it comes back to the state for a response to property case when I know he has very important things going on," Baker says. "The state would still have a case if we had Dave as a witness."

Braithwaite acquiesces to this explanation.

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"It was pretty inconvenient for a year," he says. "The idea that the state is just going to drop the whole case after a year because they don't want to inconvenience a law student? I can't find the right adjective, but that's ridiculous."

Bridgwater and his attorney believe it was the disclosure of GMP's internal emails that lulled the state case.

"The emails indicate that a clear directive was given to David Connell that Chris was not to be assisted, which is tantamount to saying he had permission to be there," White argues. "And if he had permission to be there, there's no unlawful trespass."

What really irks Bridgwater is that GMP never volunteered the emails he believes eventually derailed his name — at least, not until the company was subpoenaed.

"They had about a pension internally which eventually meant that I had not committed a crime," he says. "To stand by and let that charge proceed was completely dishonest."

Schore disagrees, she says the company's role "is to respond to what the state and the defense asks us to give them," which she says GMP did.

"We didn't feel like we were sitting on anything that would have influenced the case. We weren't withholding anything purposefully and we were cooperating fully as the case moved along," she says. "And it's not even clear to me this would have made a difference if it had been released earlier."

#### Under the Radar

About the same time Seven Days hit the screens on Wednesday, Gov. **PETER GUNAWAN**, Burlington Mayor **MIKE HENNINGER** and Winochee Mayor **MICHAEL CARR** will be jetting south to Florida for a quiet vacation.

Well, not exactly.

Accompanied by a retinue of reporters and business boosters, the political trio is flying to Florida's Indian Air Force Base and back on a single day to take a look at prototypes of the F-35 fighter jet. Weather depending, that is. The planes, which are still being tested, only fly in good weather.

The \$130,000 jetset — a mean, fast-finding machine — is funded by the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation and other donors who hope the plane will eventually be based at the Vermont Air National Guard headquarters in South Burlington.

Not as the truth story? The Florida beachside city of Volusia, which sits just three miles northeast of

Eglin. A deeply conservative, pro-military city — 75 percent of its residents voted for **MITT ROMNEY** in November — Volusia has nevertheless been late-welcome to the F-35.

In 2009, the city voted the Defense Department, seeking changes in the Air Force's F-35 flight pattern and runway plans. The bids settled, agreeing to bar itself from a runway facing the city.

Nevertheless the sound impact of the planes on Volusia has been "unusually high" since they started flying at Eglin, according to Mayor **JOHN ARNOLD**.

"They are distinctly a lot noisier than any other airplane the Air Force has," he says.

Arnold should know. The 53-year-old political independent served as a civilian missile defense engineer at Eglin for 30 years after leaving the Navy in 2004. He calls himself pro-military and even pro-F-35 but he feels the Air Force continues to ignore Volusia's concerns.

"The Air Force is a vast organization and you don't know what is changing and you don't know what's going on," he says, lamenting his inability to express his concerns to the service. "There's nobody button to push."

When Volusia sued, neighboring cities were loud, Arnold says, worrying that the region would lose out on jobs if the F-35 went elsewhere.

"We had everybody in the world against us because they thought, 'They think we're gonna be a lot of construction jobs in the area. It's gonna get us out of the economic problems' that that never happened," he says. "The only people that would profit use the money and a couple of the hamburger joints. It didn't affect the unemployment rate one iota."

Asked if he has any advice for Sherrill and his fellow mayors to they avoid into town, Arnold says, "I told her there to get a real estate picture they need to be here at some time when the Air Force is not aware of their presence."

"They're going to be on their best behavior. And you would be, too!" he adds of the Air Force. "I think they're gonna be given the cooler treat and everything will be fineable." ☺

## POLITICS

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# As Burlington's Library Becomes a Haven for the Homeless, Librarians Adapt to a Changing Job

BY KATHRYN FLAGG

**A Fletcher Free Library becoming Burlington's most popular homeless hangout? At least one librarian has observed that more and more street-tough people are using it as a de facto day station — a warm, safe place to pass the time.**

At the reference desk in the main reading room, cataloger and reference librarian Christine Wirth ticks off numbers out loud — "one, two, three, four, five" — as the tallies at least 10 signifiers within now but Friday afternoon.

The city's College Street library has always been a haven for people that don't have anywhere else to go," says co-director Robert Reink. But over the course of his 25-year tenure, he has observed that the number of persons who appear to be homeless camped out at the library has grown significantly.

In fact, the number of homeless Vermonters increased by 1 percent this year, according to newly released figures from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's annual "point-in-time" survey: the number of chronically homeless shot up 182 percent in 2012, and there were 35 percent more homeless veterans.

Serving that population — while making sure other library visitors still feel comfortable — will be one of the challenges facing the library's incoming director, Ruth Smith, whose first priority is drafting a new strategic plan. "How do we work with them, and how do we make them welcome?" she thinks, who spent nine years working in the Boston Public Library system. "They are still part of that community — and you want to make sure the library is welcoming to everyone."

Reink notes that most of the so-called regulars — 25 to 30 men and women who show up every day — don't cause problems. Some arrive when the library opens and leave shortly before closing time. Others come and go throughout the day, taking advantage of computer stations with free access to the internet. They take pride in the space, Reink says, and in many cases will tell librarians if something "untoward" is happening.

But there are exceptions. Since



Fletcher Free Library

January, the Burlington Police Department has responded to one instance of disorderly conduct, five disturbances, two cases of public intoxication, seven city ordinance violations and 10 trespasses at the Fletcher Free Library. Police have twice checked on the welfare of library patrons.

Asking librarians to assist struggling patrons with basic computer skills — "in a lot of cases doing the most basic training of how to paste and copy things you would have ordinarily found five years ago in a copy shop" — is one thing, Reink says.

But social work is a bigger stretch. When the library becomes "the bring room for people who don't have another living room," as Reink puts it, librarians are doing a job for which they aren't properly trained.

"We're not mental health professionals," says Reink. "We don't have any training in that. And quite frankly, most of us didn't sign up for that job."

Wirth — one of five librarians who

rotate on the reference desk — says she has to awaken a patron several times a week, sleeping in the library as a violation of a city ordinance. Recently she and another librarian had to deal with a man who wanted to leave his shopping cart at the reference desk. They turned him down.

Bigger challenges arise when a patron doesn't — or can't — understand the library's rules. Reink remembers one man who, a few weeks ago, was pacing restlessly in the main reading room. The library asked House of Commons street outreach teams to intervene.

Matt Young, who supervises the street outreach team, knew the individual, who was pacing, yelling and praying. "We just gently explained library rules, and it seemed to go well," he says.

Wirth and other librarians at Fletcher Free are careful not to draw any unwarranted conclusions about their patrons. "You can't just judge," says Wirth.

Reink jokes that "freedom of access" is tattooed on every librarian's shoulder

That means that just as librarians pride themselves on ignoring what books a patron checks out, or which sections he or she may visit, so too do librarians like Reink steer clear of stereotyping their patrons. That means that while he and other library workers can draw some conclusions about their patrons' circumstances based on appearance or behavior, he can't speak definitively about their lives. "We're not job not to know," says Reink.

Several attempts by Seven Days to speak with patrons who fall into this category were politely rebuffed, as patrons expressed a wish to keep to themselves.

Young believes that anonymity is a big part of the library's appeal. While the Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS) meets a day station specifically for homeless individuals in Burlington, Young says many people like the library, where they aren't so easily labeled as "homeless."

"There's when they feel homeless, when they're receiving these homeless



armies," Young says. "If they're camped in the woods and hanging out at the library—that's a life."

Burlington's official day starts about dawn last July after a flash flood runs through the basement-level facility on the corner of South Winooski Avenue and King Street. COTS executive director Rita Madley says the organization "cobbed together" services from two locations before opening an interim daytime shelter in the parsonage of the First United Methodist Church of Burlington on Basil Street in late October. She reports attendance numbers range between 20 and 30 individuals each day.

When the library performed its last round of strategic planning, Madley says the organization "went out of their way to include COTS' stance will likely continue that tradition. Although she has most recently been directing Colchester's Jordanian Memorial Library, her various roots. Kyle Dedson, the director of Champlain College's Center for Service and Civic Engagement, suggested Dedson to the library search and calls the first-generation Mexican-American an "incredible grab for Burlington."

At last week's press conference to announce Dedson's appointment, the talk was of the need for a visionary leader—one with experience in a diverse community—who could head Fletcher House in a time when, at Stager House, Westchester noted, Burlington is asking its library to do more than ever.

Announcing that Westchester's public owns the city couldn't appear on December 12, Dedson will start work in January. Her appointment signals a shift away from a collector model in the library, noted last summer librarian Rosack, Robert Colchester and Andler.

Collins shared the top job Collins retired in June, leaving Rosack and Colchester to explore the shop. They'll stay on as librarians at the downtown library after Dedson takes charge.

No doubt they'll be part of any conversation about the Fletcher House's future and how Burlington's homeless population fits into it.

In the meantime, though, the library may have to combat what Rosack worries is the misconception that the library is a "scary place" full of "scary people" which he insists just isn't true.

Paul Olsen, a Colchester resident and business professor at St. Michaels College, visits the Fletcher Free three or four times a week to read the newspaper at grade student papers. While he says the homeless issue is "impossible not to notice" at Fletcher Free—citing the parked shopping carts out front and the bags and belongings earned by some patrons—he says he's not scared by it.

Peter Berns, a Winooski resident who leads discussion groups at the library, agrees. He doesn't think the homeless population has scared away children or families from the library.

There's not to say there aren't awkward moments. Olsen had a run-in with a woman he described as "a little creepy"—she brought him a book and showed and told her to give it to him. Berns admits the men's washroom can be a bit of a mess, especially when some patrons use the sinks for rinsing out their laundry that it's not enough to keep either man away.

"Quite frankly, most of them just read newspaper and visiting with people, and it's not an issue," says Olsen. "The bottom line is, it's a public library, and residents of Burlington and the public are welcome to go in."

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# Burlington Adopts a New App to Tackle an Old Problem: Illegal Dumping

BY TYLER RICHARD

**T**he smartphone, not the dump truck, may turn out to be a more effective weapon in Burlington's war on greenbelt garbage.

For the last two months, the city's code enforcement office has been using SeeClickFix, a crowd-sourcing app for the web and mobile devices that allows users to photograph and report low-level neighborhood problems such as trash, blocked sidewalks and potholes. Users can vote on which code violations are most urgent, the more votes an entry gets, the higher it appears on code enforcement's to-do list.

Best of all, users can track the progress of complaints to see how quickly the city is fixing—or not fixing—a problem.

Director of Code Enforcement Bill Ward says the use of SeeClickFix is meant to “change the paradigm” of illegal dumping in the city. “Things on the greenbelt and the message that we see comes,” Ward says. SeeClickFix “creates the message that people are paying attention and care about the neighborhood.”

The app is the brainchild of web developer Ben Benkowitz of New Haven, Conn. In 2008, he complained to city hall about graffiti on an building—and never got a call back. Neighbors he expressed similar concerns got the same silent treatment. Benkowitz hatched SeeClickFix; no one could see what others were reporting and when—or if—city officials responded.

More than 30 cities already employ SeeClickFix, according to Kevin Donohue, the company's community manager. The ad-supported app has been implemented in municipalities as small as Andover, Mass., as large as Chicago, Ill., and as far-flung as Olsztyn, Poland.

Burlington's code-enforcement office paid \$600 to license the app on a trial basis through June of next year and right now it's the only city department using it.

If the app is successful, Ward says he'll sign up for another year at a cost of a few thousand dollars. The exact price depends on which features the city wants.

To demonstrate the app, Ward took me trash hunting on North Wisconsin Avenue. We soon encountered a case of illegal dumping: a dilapidated entertainment center sitting next to the curb. Ward took out his phone, snapped a photo and uploaded it to the app, which used GPS technology to pinpoint our location.

In so doing, he sent an alert to his team of code-enforcement officers. Meanwhile, the occupants of the house noticed their curbside contribution had attracted the scrutiny of an official-looking guy and another one taking notes. So they moved the stuff to the backyard. Problem solved. Ward took a photo of the pristine greenbelt and marked the case “resolved” in the app.

On Paul Street, Ward spotted a bag of garbage on the greenbelt. Again he snapped a photo and commented in the app. This complaint was resolved in a more conventional matter. Someone from code enforcement notified the building's property manager, changing the case's status to “acknowledged” in the app. Shortly after that, the trash was cleaned up and marked “closed” in SeeClickFix. A new photo showed a trash-free greenbelt.

As Ward says it, transparency is SeeClickFix's best feature. “If you're the one who reported it, you can follow it,” Ward says. “You'll know that Bill Ward or someone on his staff acknowledged the complaint, and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing someone's taken action.”

SeeClickFix isn't meant for emergency use — that's what good, old-fashioned 911 is for — but it can indirectly aid emergency responders. Government Technology magazine reported that in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the app was used to pinpoint storm damage and assemble volunteer teams, keeping 911 lines





open for more pressing emergencies.

What sets SeeClickFix apart from locally focused apps and networks such as Post! Peeph! Forum or Peeph!om is that it not only engages users but integrates them into the government's workflow. "We want more citizens participating and communicating concerns, but if there's no feedback loop, then citizens are just gonna get discouraged," Deneskie says. "On the other hand, governments are going to have no interest if citizens aren't using it."

New Haven had a 311 hotline system in place when Berlowitz

invented SeeClickFix, but very few people were taking advantage of it. Meanwhile, Berlowitz convinced the New Haven Independent, an online news site, to display SeeClickFix widgets directly on its home page. As the app gained traction, "Finally the city said, 'They do it better than we do, why don't we go with what's working!'" says editor Paul Bass, noting that SeeClickFix represents "the new direction that news is heading."

Governments, media outlets and citizen groups have heeded SeeClickFix as their respective websites. In Burlington, Local Motion tried it before the city; the advocacy organization invited members to post ideas for improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

Now all reports are directed to code enforcement. Since October, most have pertained to illegal dumping, but other issues have cropped up, too. In the last couple of weeks, citizens have used SeeClickFix to alert code enforcement about illegal parking on sidewalks or greenbins, downed traffic signs and graffiti.

Last week, someone reported a bag of used needles on Bradley Street, near a property owned by Champlain College. Word's office took care of the cleanup but also notified Burlington police and college security of potential criminal activity.

The majority of problems reported on SeeClickFix are resolved by contacting either the property owner or the Department of Public Works. But some reports have required more research. In one case, a code-enforcement employee noted that a graffiti-tagged lamppost wasn't city property but said the office would look for a contact person at the church that owns the lamp.

Complaints about non-code issues generate helpful information. Report on a burned-out streetlight, for example, and SeeClickFix provides the phone number for Burlington Electric. Word says features can be added to the app as needed, depending on how people use it. "Initial indications are that it's well worth the couple-thousand-dollar investment, and it could even be less than a thousand if we partner with other departments," Word says.

You could argue the app is already paying off in positive PR. As of Monday morning, Burlington posted 10th on SeeClickFix list of best performing cities, which measures how many complaints have been to fix and how long each took to get removed.

Of course, the more people use it — which is a key measure of the app's success — the harder it will be for the city to hang on to that accolade. ☐

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# Miller Time: Gov. Shumlin's New Chief of Staff Is a Quick Study

BY ANDY BRIDGEMAN

**G**ov. Peter Shumlin had some explaining to do last spring, when he came under fire for his position on a controversial anti-gay merger. So he dispatched his energy adviser — the head of the Department of Public Service — to make his case before the big guns in the Vermont Senate.

Liz Miller not only survived the aggressive, five-hour back-and-forth session and one of her staffers collided with an eager TV news crew as they followed her out of the Senate chamber.

More political combat awaits the 42-year-old lawyer, whose friends and colleagues describe as a quick study and good communicator. Come January, Miller will become Shumlin's chief of staff, the powerful, behind-the-scenes operator responsible for implementing the governor's agenda across all parts of state government.

Her predecessor, Tall Lady, is leaving for a job with the Democratic Governors' Association, in which Shumlin was recently elected chairman. With Shumlin expected to spend more time out of state on GGA business — he leaves for a conference in Kansas this Friday — it will be Miller's job, with assistance from Secretary of Administration Job Spaniolis, to steer the governor's agenda to do last.

That includes figuring out how to fund universal health care for Vermont and plugging a \$300 million budget gap without raising taxes. A host of other issues — three-wheeled skateboards, marijuana decriminalization, drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants — will be competing for the governor's attention.

At a post-lecture press conference announcing Miller's appointment, Shumlin said she was the right person for the job. "I've brought to the job her extraordinary intelligence, her commitment to Vermont, and her ability to take complex challenges, problems that arise from various sources and get them done."

He should know. Two years ago, Shumlin appointed Miller to head the Department of Public Service, the regulatory agency responsible for developing Vermont's energy policy and representing companies in energy and telecom cases.

In that role, Miller proved "she's all business but she can do it with a smile on her face," says Montpelier lobbyist Kevin Ellis.

As chief of staff, Miller will lead a dozen employees in the governor's office



who deal with legislative policy, external communication and scheduling. Ellis says Miller has the mental toughness she'll need to be the governor's "go-to person" — deciding who gets to see him and for how long. She'll earn \$127,000 a year — up from the \$104,645 annual salary she made in the DHS.

"She's the protector of the brand. The protector of the message, to make sure the governor's message is signed with policy," Ellis says. "And if anything goes wrong, it's her fault."

The biggest challenge is likely to be health care. The Shumlin-appointed Green Mountain Care Board is slated to release its financing plan for the governor's health reform next year, and Miller acknowledges it's a complicated plan that could present "a public message problem."

"I think there's a lot of support in Vermont for improving the health-care system," Miller and other colleagues told us in Montpelier. "The challenge is making sure Vermontans know what we're doing and why and feel they have a voice in the process."

It will be Miller's job to move the big priorities forward and fix the distractions that inevitably slow the momentum of any administration. She noted, "You can't let the day-to-day chaos override or sidestep the long-term policies. It would be possible to get derailed if you didn't keep that long-term view."

Miller faced two such crises last year as Shumlin's point person on Green Mountain Power's merger with Central Vermont Public Service. The public-service commissioner had pointed, personal questions over her involvement with the merger because her husband, Burlington lawyer Eric Miller, was a partner at the law firm representing GH&P.

Though her husband did not personally represent GH&P in any cases, some believed Liz Miller had a conflict of interest. State Sen. Vince Iliuzzi (D-Randolph) sparked a feud with Shumlin. Via longhairs ally, when he asked the Public Service Board to replace Miller with a special counsel to represent ratepayers in the merger proceedings.

But Shumlin backed off his public criticism after Miller appointed a former regulatory specialist to handle the support of the merger that most interested the senator who would get control of Vermont's transmission grid. It was smart politics, and, today, Iliuzzi is highly complimentary of his former adversary.

"She knows the legal issues," the retiring lawmaker says, adding that he encouraged Shumlin to appoint Miller as chief of staff. "She was, or became, sensitive to the political side of the equation."

Miller and her husband have been active in Democratic politics for years; they've hosted fundraisers for Congressman Peter Welch, Burlington Mayor Steve Weinberger and Shumlin. But when asked what moved her on to politics, Miller answered, "I'm not so much interested in politics as government. Honestly. We're not."

A California native, Miller was raised in Yuba Falls — "the home of Richard Nixon," she noted — and in the East Bay area. Her father was an Army veteran who started a commercial real estate firm in



Orange County. Her mother was a waitress and secretary and later got her real-estate license.

Miller required in classes at UCLA and decided to pursue law school after a formative experience working for an entertainment attorney. "I would run to Disney studios to drop off contracts, or talk to David Lynch's people about how to license music," she recalled.

At Yale Law School, Miller participated in the prosecutor's law clinic, in which student lawyers run prosecutions at the local courthouse. That was in the early '90s, during the height of the New Haven crack wars, and Miller said the symbolism of a "white woman from California" prosecuting criminal cases in a midlevel hard city was not lost on her.

At Yale, Miller met her husband and after graduating in 1993, the couple moved to Vermont, where she clerked for federal appeals court judge James Oakes.

That was followed by a stint at the San Francisco law firm Morrison Forester, a giant practice for which Miller worked on what she calls the "roughest case I ever heard about," Larry Hillblom, the job-liner, cofounder of shipping company DHL, Worldwide Express, was killed as a plane crash over the North Pacific in 1993. Hillblom's will did not include a disinheritance clause and after his death, numerous South Asian children came forward to claim he was their father, demanding their share of the inheritance.

Miller's firm represented Hillblom's estate and employed her to begin to open an office and sort out the competing paternity claims. She might have stayed out West, but Miller said she was drawn back to Vermont in search of a place where "you weren't just a number in a city, but you could actually affect things."

The Millers moved to Burlington, where Lisa landed a job at the Burlington law firm Doran Krupp McIntire and she and one of the firm partners, James Spink, eventually left to launch their own commercial litigation practice.

"This just is happening; she is probably the most important person I've ever met," says Spink. "This guy has a subject matter and say, 'Am, you can please learn this?' It doesn't take very long for her to be an expert."

Among the clients Miller and her new partner took on, an Iveson Junction businessman who brought a patent-infringement lawsuit against Apple in 2003. David

Conner claimed that Apple employees stole his idea for a computer media player at a trade show in 1999 and used it to develop iTunes. The case settled a year later as an undisclosed sum.

In another case, Miller and Spink co-prosecuted chemical company Batschle's against two former employees of the IBM plant in Essex who claimed that exposure to wastewater treatment chemicals left them with severe neurological damage. That case also settled as an undisclosed sum.

Miller said her career reached a certain point that made her want to try something else. She had supported Obama during his 2008 campaign — she hosted a fundraiser for him after he won a first-term Democratic primary. After the general election, she submitted her resume for a job at the new statewide institution.

"I was literally thinking, like, heard or commission. You know like, 'You need someone for the state auditor,'" Miller said. Instead, Shandell asked Miller to be his public service commissioner, to start his energy policy at a time when he was controversially calling for Vermont's lone nuclear plant to be shut down and for more renewable wind development.

Asked to identify her biggest accomplishment in the job, Miller cited the new statewide energy plan. Andrew

Barnes, a former aide to Congressman Peter Welch who now works for Whitehouse-based AllEarth Renewables, says Miller exhibited skills during that process that will be crucial in her new role, including her ability to handle dissent, elicit diverging viewpoints and forge something approaching consensus.

"She's got a very good compass," Barnes says. "She's got a good gut and toughness."

Having Democratic supermajorities in both the House and Senate should make Miller's job a little easier. Democrats all but dominate the agenda in Montpelier, though House Minority Leader Dan Turner (D-Milton) expects the majority party — and MRMs, in particular — will at least keep the GOP in the loop. Turner says he won't meet with — unless there is representation on "Lobby" — during the latter's two-year stint as Shandell's chief of staff.

"I think she will definitely take the time to talk to all parties and convey information," Turner says. ☐

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# Vermont's Cartoon College Throws a Party in Its New Quarters

BY PAMELA POLSTON

**A** cold rain steadily dripping on White River Junction on Friday did nothing to prevent some 400 celebrants from turning out for the **CENTENNIAL CARTOON STUDIOS'** open house in its new old building. The former turner post office was purchased about a year ago by the cartooning school, with the help of a generous local real-estate dealer, and adapted for classrooms and offices.

The move from CCS' previous quarters was just a block or so, but it represents a big step forward for the 25-year-old school, which offers one- and two-year certificate programs in cartooning, as well as an MFA and summer workshops. Current enrollment is about 100 students.

From the outside, the school's colorfully revived style building, opened in 1904 on South Main Street, still resembles a post office — minus the distinctive American flag. The inside, of course, is a different story: Up a few steps and through a foyer, the school's library greets visitors with the promise of lots of fun. A small, freestanding sign reading "The library is for a read in the 'house'" character Lucy

— created by library associate Charles Schultz — is in her St. psychiatrist mode. The long rows of floor-to-ceiling shelves, packed with thousands of comics, graphic novels and other publications, encourage browsing. But this voracious collection, saved from Tropical Storm Irene's floodwaters at a previous location in August 2011, could take a lifetime to peruse.

A large and versatile central room dominates the first floor. Normally used

## BEING THERE

up studios, while students of all ages greeted friends, snatched an snack and ordered unique cartoon holiday cards. There were made an demand for five books each by a rotating cadre of CCS students, some in Santa hats or other jolly leotards. (Character options for the cards were Super Star and Santa, Cartooning or Naps N.E., Holy or Making Snowman, and Happy or Angry too.)

At a row of tables in the back of the room, Vermont cartooners laureates, **JAMES SCORRALLO**, and **HARRY RUDOLPH** made quick work



drawings (on sale to benefit CCS) and signed their books to the middle, author and faculty member **SARAH STEWART DRYDEN** offered up her new middle-grade mystery.

The Eggholmers illustrated by recent CCS grad Katherine Wray. At the other end of the author lineup, Steve signed the new *Adventures in Cartooning Christmas*

## Burlington Film Society to Bring Controversial Flick to Waterfront

BY MARGOT HARRISON

**"I**ve been at film festivals in Montreal and watched people **leer!**" says **KEIK FORD** of the **BURLINGTON FILM SOCIETY**. "I don't think you're going to do that at home on your couch. [The theater experience is] larger than life, and I think that's important."

That's why Ford, who is also the communications director at Burlington's **SEA-VENTURE**, cofounded the BFS last January with local film scholar **MARVIN SUMNER**. The group of cinephiles has no officers or membership cards and "never defines" its lineup. Ford says that since September, they've been holding monthly public screenings of movies that slipped Vermont theaters at **MADE STREET LANDINGS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**.

The BFS next offering, *Complexe*,

screens on Thursday, December 20. *Crucial Zola's* drama may not make people leer, but it did cause walk-outs at last January's Sundance Film Festival. In the *Hall of Fame*, Lucas Kravitz calls it "the most uncomfortable film experience of my life," one that provoked a woman at his showing to yell, "Give me a fucking break!" as she headed for the exit. But Kravitz also says *Complexe* is "one of the most well-made, brilliantly acted films of the year" and one he can't stop thinking about.

The indie film has no success, middle-American setting — a low-level restaurant — and follows real events that occurred in Kentucky in 2004. Where's the controversy? In brief, *Complexe* suggests that, given the right circumstances, ordinary people can be induced to do



3.20 Steve Complaine

extremely bad things. Like the famous *Madigan* experiment, it makes viewers ask, "Would I have complied?" (See our film section for a preview.)

Such a film may not be a good business bet for a regular theater, but BFS screenings aim to provoke post-movie conversations — the kinder the better. "Any film that causes an uproar or controversy in certain circles deserves looking into and discussion," Ford says. "Is it exploitation, or is it not?"

Last spring, after introductory meetings attracted a core of eight to 12 useful "members," the BFS began organizing

meet-ups at local theaters. In August, about 50 people attended a special screening of Ingmar Bergman's *The Seventh Seal* at **MERRILL ROYCE CINEMA**. Ford says, "That was organized through buzzword, a service that delivers films to theaters once groups reach a quota of online ticket reservations." But attempts to bring murder screenings of *Ten Drowsy and Mally's Greeting* didn't have enough takers. "We're still trying to figure out the magic formula for that model," Ford says of buzz.com.

Meanwhile, the BFS began partnering with **MARIAN KIDOL**, director of the









## WETNAP

Sam Gasco lives and draws in Northampton, Mass., plays music under the moniker of Sam Gasco & Co., and also has a gallery of "Biker Beasts."



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## Artful Gifts Abound at the Holiday sHop

BY MICAM JAMES

**E**ach fall the **SOUTHERN ART SHOP** (St. Galleries, studios and businesses of Burlington's individual neighborhood with thousands of people with one simple goal—to see local art, OK, and to *buy* it. The event's winter cousin, the three-day **ARTS AND BUSINESS SHOP**, aims to appeal to visitors on a more urgent mission: attacking their holiday shopping lists. More than 30 artist studios, galleries and other venues are participating in this weekends

In 2008, when jewelry maker **BARBIE** started the first Holiday Shop with a handful of other Burlington artists, only seven venues participated. But the event quickly gained traction. "We have a wonderful, supportive community here, a lot of folks who want to buy locally, who are the value in that," Davis says. "It feels really fantastic."

When the **ARTS AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION** (ABAA) took the reins of the shop three years ago, participating artists were asked to shift their focus from organizing the growing event to finishing up the work they hoped to sell. "It's been great for us," says Davis. "We can focus on what we're doing."

And what they're doing is creating one-of-a-kind artworks.

In the Hallowed Space, Davis crafts her vibrant polymer-clay jewelry in **STUDIO D-4**, which she shares with artist **ELIZABETH HANCOCK**, **CAROL HORTON** and **KATE BUTT**. Impact clay studio to be filled with glass mosaics, lost worlds, oil paintings and more.

Downstairs, at **JUSTIN ROSE PHOTO STUDIO**, Burlington artist and accessories **JILLIE GRUBB** is selling handmade accessories and new-looking dolls made completely from reclaimed fabric, as well as her witty pen-and-ink drawings of animals with other animals living in their stomachs. On her website, Poppets and Loos, Grubb claims to have "rolled a cross between arctic, hatched creature, sales, out away with the circus, turned

into a puppet, ran away from the circus and explored far and wide around the States."

More traditional art lovers might prefer designer **KEVIN KELLEY'S** faux vintage Vermont travel posters. At **ANNE ROSE ART**, he often gives prints on watercolor paper with the lush, romantic imagery of a snow-covered Mount Mansfield, he plays drums, the Green Mountains at sunset, and even a triumphant Morgan horse galloping over a

grassy hillside.

At **THE ART** in the Soda Plant, the printing is personalized. Designer **ANDY HARRIS** creates out delicate heterogeneous engravings on her hollow Chandler & Price Plates presumably showcasing your best would appreciate hand-painted stationery or whimsical tea towels and pillows.

You can catch a glass-blowing demonstration at **LAUREN** and take home an ornament, warm up at **LAUREN CHOCOLATES** with a step of hot chocolate, help to decorate trees with ornaments from different artists at **BARBIE (AND HANCOCK)**, place a silver ball in artwork at the **ART THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF BURLINGTON's** annual small artist market in the **MACTER BUILDING** Saturday afternoon, and wander through the **ABAA CENTER's** first-ever artist market, filled with stone carvings by **LENN ELEANOR**, hats by **OWEN & SIOBHAN HALLIDAY**, license-plate art by **BARBARA STEIN** and many other unusual artworks.

The Holiday sHop will be big to September's arts extravaganza — yet — but there's still plenty to see, do and buy throughout the month too. If you get too tired, climb aboard the free **ARTISTBUS** shuttle, running Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Happy shopping! ☺

**Holiday Shop** Friday through Sunday, December 14-16, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Burlington Arts Center and Burlington Public Art Center. Visit [www.burlingtonartshop.org](http://www.burlingtonartshop.org) for the full schedule.

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Dear Celia,  
I've read on several occasions that in some cultures, it's seen as normal for parents and caregivers to perform sexual acts on babies and toddlers in order to calm them down and help them sleep. Cultures to which this disturbing practice has been attributed include those of Japan, Africa, the Philippines, Mongolia, Thailand, Bali, native Hawaiians, some native American tribes, parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, Australian aboriginals, and New Guineans. Does this really happen?

Matt Wells, United Kingdom

**N**ot to go off Bill Clinton on you, but we need to define what we mean by "performing a sexual act." For now, let's just say that, based strictly on appearances, some cultures tolerate stuff that in the U.S. would get you booted as a juvenile. Examples:

In 2006, a Cambodian teenager living in the Las Vegas area was charged with sexual assault for allegedly performing fellatio on her 6-year-old son. The woman's attorney said what she'd asked for done was kiss the kid's penis, even when he was four or five. A spokesperson for the Cambodian Association of America said that while this kind of thing was



widespread in Cambodia, some rural folks went in for it as an expression of love or respect, although in his experience never with children older than 1 or maybe 2.

- In relation to being elected U.S. senator from Vietnam in 2006, Jim Webb, assistant Secretary of the Navy under Reagan, was accused by his opponent for a punga in his 2004 novel *Love Children* to depict a "Thai man giving up his naked young son and puts his penis in his mouth. Webb responded that he had personally witnessed such a greeting in a Bangkok shop."
- Numerous ethnographers report that mothers and caregivers in rural New Guinea routinely fondle the genitals of infants and toddlers at both sexes. In the case of boys this supposedly aids the growth of the penis if it's often done in public

and is a source of great satisfaction.

- The Telugu-speaking people of central India date on the premises of boys up through age six, which they hold, rub and kiss. (Girls engage with more same-sex touching.) A typical greeting involves an adult grabbing a boy's arm with one hand and his penis with the other.
- A 1946 report claimed that among lower-class Japanese families, parents or grandparents would play with the genitals of children to help them fall asleep, and a researcher visiting Japan in the 1930s noted that mothers often played with the genital of their sons.

I didn't make an exhaustive search and so don't know to what extent such things occur in Latin America, Europe, Australia or elsewhere. However, it appears that

- Fondling with kid's penis is

a fairly widespread practice in Asia, particularly among people toward the lower end of the socioeconomic scale. The reports are too numerous and credible for those all to be dismissed as the ravings of hysterical Westerners. My sense is that, as societies become more westernized, urban and affluent, the practice dies out.

- The acts we're talking about are seen in the same way that those doing the fondling are well aware of the sexual implications of what they're up to and find it odd to give a little boy a erection.
- That said, from what I can see, the boundaries of penetrable body orifice appear to be reasonably well defined. For example, ethnographers in New Guinea say elderly women in rural cultures warn young mothers to cover their breasts before fondling their sons but anyone get the wrong idea.
- Local cases occasionally do surface. Reports of mother-son incest were briefly fabled in Japanese magazines in the 1940s. Those stories played off the unforgiving Japanese stereotype of the mother obsessed with getting her son onto a top school.

suspecting some "infanticidal mania" would violate the ultimate taboo to help their horny pubescent boys stay reined and focused on studying. A few Westerners have taken these urban legends at face value. Lloyd Dabbs, founder of a self-proclaimed center for a publication called the *Journal of Psychohistory*, once the Japanese mother-son stories in private evidence in his account of what he calls "the universality of incest." It's pretty clear, however, that incest implies as much violation in Japan as anywhere else.

A less exotic take on things is that Asian societies just aren't as keen up about matters of the flesh as we Westerners are. In Japan, incest-accused public bathing was fairly common until the postwar occupation, and some families barely neighbor now if they have a big enough lot. Infanticide sex play was once considered harmless in many parts of Asia and among the less westernized element still is. Nonetheless, as far as I can determine, Asian societies have always drawn a bright line between looking around with babies and toddlers and having sex with your kids. If Westerners can't believe that elementary distinction, well, whose problem is that?

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## The Cook's Wife

"**W**here is seat belt?" my passenger, Nikolas Yegorov, inquired from the shotgun seat. He was short and stocky with dark, deep-set eyes and a closely cropped, almost bald head. We were sitting at Fletcher Allen hospital's main entrance.

"Sorry, it's a little tricky," I replied. "It's connected to the seat, not the door post. Do you see it?"

"Aha, yes, I get it," he said, the click affirming his success.

"What happened to your chest?" I asked as we made our way all the hospital grounds. Seemingly an untripped, light jacket, he was wearing a basketball hospital bag with a sky-blue cloud pattern. Somewhere, I imagined, there was a study demonstrating the beneficial effect of pastel colors on the psyche of hospitalized patients.

"I'm not here," Nikolas replied. "I think it gets lost when they transfer me from Pittsburgh hospital to helicopter."

"Where what was that like? I've never been in a helicopter."

"I don't much remember. I have heart attack and I think they put me on drugs. I feel better now."

"Well, that's good news. So I guess I'm taking you to Lake Placid?" You knew the address once we got there. I answered.

"Yes, yes. We go to my house. I surprise my wife. She does not know what day I get released."

I had plotted out the route before I picked up my passenger. On Lake Placid or Strake, Lake run, it's a close call whether to take the Champlain Bridge or the Champlain Ferry. The ferry option entails less mileage, but shortens the waiting time and one of the ferry I decided to take the bridge, mostly because I enjoy the visual experience. It's a gorgeous structure and still so new, with its slender arch balanced

precisely and gracefully over the fresh water. I got goose bumps the first time I crossed it last winter, and I'm not a very goose-bumpy guy.

"So where did you grow up?" I asked, picking up the conversation once we made it onto Route 7's rocky ride south. "Russia?" Or I guess it would have been the USSR?

"I was born in Ukraine in 1944, in small town, maybe 30000 people. My father had farms — pigs, horses. I remember how 30 years ago with my wife. I cook at big Lake Placid hotel."

"That's a huge change for any man to go through!" I said. "Do you speak much English when you arrived?"

"Not one word. I learn by watching TV." Nikolas stopped and chuckled for a while

before resuming and everything beautiful. When she was 4, the communists canceled arrest of her parents and grandmother and sent them to Siberia prison farm, the Gulag. Nikolas was taken to orphanage, where she had to scrub floors four every day, and they beat her the never see her parents again, but her grandmother came back to orphanage and they live together through the war and later, but very, very poor."

"What a story," I said. "The things people live through. It's hard to believe."

"It's true, but my wife is very strong woman, she became singer and dancer, and together we got out of Soviet Republic just as it is breaking apart. For a while, we live in Europe, in different countries, but then move to America."

**DESPITE A ROUGH HISTORY, HE MAINTAINED AN OPTIMISTIC, ALMOST JOLLY, APPROACH TO LIFE.**

before going on. "That's how I learn the secret to good, long marriage. I watch this English TV show where the husband is saying all the time, 'Yes, dear.' So always I say this to my wife and we are happy."

I laughed and said, "Maybe that and also 'Yes, sorry, and you get it all covered.'"

Nikolas laughed, saying, "Yes, I'm sorry — that's good, yes."

At Vermontans are strong, over to 12A, on route to Crown Point and the bridge to New York. "So tell me about your wife," I said. "Where is she from?"

"Nikolai is also from Ukraine. Her family had money when she was little child. Her father owned four factories and they

The bridge was so grand as I remembered, so was the mile into the Adirondacks and across to Lake Placid. Nikolas and I talked the entire time. Despite a rough history, parts of which I could barely imagine, he maintained an optimistic, almost jolly approach to life. Apparently no heart attack was going to change that.

Near the village center, a couple of turns took us to the small townhouse development where Nikolas and his wife resided. The place was in a state of shabby decline — peeling paint, dilapidated shingles, pocket-sized curvy lawns.

Nikolas removed his small bag from the rear seat and introduced me, "You meet, My

wife here, ladies and ladies for you, traditional Russian."

Before I could tell him that was not his necessary, Nikolas came running out the door, tears streaming down her cheeks. "My Nicky, my Nicky," she cried, wrapping her arms around her husband and showering him with kisses. They talked for a moment, and she ran inside and came out with two large, sealed bags, each of which were stuffed with at least a couple of dozen super-sour-sweet pastries. They looked exquisite and quite delicious.

I stepped out of the cab to meet her. Nikolas's lips were bright red, his gray eyes wide open. He had just on his last, with, snags wrapping everywhere. She was a falling beauty, yet stable and proud, and lovely still.

Tears still falling, she handed me the bags, saying, "Thank you, thank you, for returning my Nicky to me."

Nikolas walked over to embrace his wife again, and then, before I knew it, I was swept into a group hug. Five bags of them were saying.

I thanked Nikolas profusely for her beautiful baked goods and stepped back in the cab to make my exit. Nikolas rushed to my window and handed me some money, saying, "Take this. Please, take this."

"Nikolas, the fare is paid by the hospital," I protested, but he persisted. I hesitated. I would be reaching his generous nature if I refused the tip, so I accepted, stuffing the bills into my shirt pocket. Only as the ferry rode back (during which I for the doctor driving distance) did I check my pocket, expecting to find perhaps 100 or 115. Instead, I found a \$10, a ten, and some ones. The men had topped me \$60.

I got down the cobble — my 100s by now, at least — and, wiping the powder from my lips, took a deep breath, sending Nikolas and Nikolas Yegorov another beautiful thank-you through the ether.

**HACKIE** is a twice weekly column that can also be read on [www.hackie.com](http://www.hackie.com). To reach Jeramian Pontac, email [hackie@vermontreport.com](mailto:hackie@vermontreport.com).

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SEVEN DAYS

SEX  
SURVEY

2013



## Hey, Seven Days readers,

Do your feet hurt? Because you've been running through our minds all day. Actually, we haven't been able to stop thinking about you—and your creative sex lives—since we read your incredible, hilarious, candid and oddly touching responses to our 2011 sex survey.

A lot can change in two years. And we don't want this relationship to stagnate. So we've got a new set of probing questions to ask you—*anonymously*, of course. Why not slip into something a little more comfortable, put on some sultry tunes and get cozy with us? **By us, on February 22, you can savor the results in our biennial sex issue.**

Happy endings guaranteed.

Fill out this survey—preferably online at [sevendaysvt.com](http://sevendaysvt.com)—to be included in the 2013 results. If you use the paper ballot, send it to Sex Survey, c/o Seven Days, P.O. Box 1164, Burlington, VT 05402-7164. Either way, **the deadline is Friday, January 4, at 5 p.m.**

**SAVE A STAMP!** Fill out the survey online at **»sevendaysvt.com.**

## WHO ARE YOU?

## Gender

- ☐ Female  
☐ Male  
☐ M/F trans  
☐ F-M trans  
☐ Other

## Age

- ☐ 18 or younger  
☐ 20-24  
☐ 25-29  
☐ 30-34  
☐ 35-39  
☐ 40-44  
☐ 45-49  
☐ 50 or older

## Sexual orientation

- ☐ Hetero  
☐ Gay/lesbian  
☐ Bisexual  
☐ Asexual  
☐ Other

## Political affiliation

- ☐ Democrat  
☐ Republican  
☐ Progressive  
☐ Independent  
☐ Other

## Relationship status

- ☐ Married/committed  
☐ Single  
☐ Going steady  
☐ In an open relationship  
☐ Polyamorous

## Occupation

Where did you grow up?

## PRIVATE PARTS

I was \_\_\_\_\_ years old when I lost my virginity.

How many sex partners, if any, have you had in the last year?

How often do you have sex?

- ☐ Multiple times a day  
☐ Once a day  
☐ A few times a week  
☐ At least once a week  
☐ At least once a month  
☐ A few times a year  
☐ Never  
☐ Other

How often do you masturbate?

- ☐ Multiple times a day  
☐ Once a day  
☐ A few times a week  
☐ At least once a week  
☐ At least once a month  
☐ A few times a year  
☐ Never  
☐ Other

How often do you watch porn?

- ☐ Multiple times a day  
☐ Once a day  
☐ A few times a week  
☐ At least once a week  
☐ At least once a month  
☐ A few times a year  
☐ Never  
☐ Other

Are you satisfied with your current sex life?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

Do you feel sexy in your own naked body?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

If you have a penis, is it circumcised?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

If you have a vagina, have you ever dyed it?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

Do you have any genital piercings?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

In a sexual context, what do you prefer to call your genitals?

What is your favorite sex toy?

What's your go-to seed music for sex? Be specific.

It's easier for me to get off...

- ☐ with a partner  
☐ on my own

The most inappropriate place I have masturbated is...

I \_\_\_\_\_ have seen in the first place.

- ☐ always  
☐ never  
☐ sometimes

If I could believe my partner is \_\_\_\_\_ make sure we keep going until he/she is \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ always  
☐ never  
☐ sometimes

My preferred safe sex/health control method is...

When it comes to public hair, I prefer \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ have an uncircumcised bush  
☐ keeps the hair trimmed and tidy  
☐ is totally hairless  
☐ who cares? As long as I'm getting laid  
☐ Other

I have:

- ☐ jerked off (thus, jizzed)  
☐ had an orgasm  
☐ cheated on a partner  
☐ been cheated on  
☐ slept with an ex  
☐ had sex with a sibling  
☐ had sex with a coworker  
☐ had sex with someone whose name I don't know  
☐ had sex with more than one person at once  
☐ had sex in a public place  
☐ ingested BCSM  
☐ had fantasies that wouldn't be ethical to act on  
☐ made a video of myself having sex  
☐ uploaded and shared that video online  
☐ been to a swingers party  
☐ gave a sex therapist  
☐ sold for sex  
☐ been paid for sex  
☐ watched my parents having sex  
☐ had sex while someone else watched  
☐ watched someone else having sex  
☐ had sex with an animal

When it comes, I would like \_\_\_\_\_

SEX SURVEY | P. 30



# SEVEN DAYS SEX SURVEY 2013

4/7/13

I never thought I'd enjoy \_\_\_\_\_  
but, damn, do I ever!

My biggest turn-on is \_\_\_\_\_

The quickest way to turn me off is \_\_\_\_\_

At what point in a new relationship do you tell your partner about a specific fetish/ink you have?

- ☐ I make it clear exactly what I'm into in my initial person(s) ad.
- ☐ I broach the subject in person before we ever have sex.
- ☐ I introduce it while we're having sex for the first time.
- ☐ I bring it up after we've had sex a few times.
- ☐ I only tell if my partner presses it out of me.
- ☐ I don't really have any kinks.
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

How do you most often communicate your desires to a partner?

- ☐ Text.
- ☐ Email.
- ☐ Talking in person.
- ☐ Body language.
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

If you're in an exclusive relationship, how would you react to the discovery that your partner is cheating?

- ☐ Break off the relationship immediately.
- ☐ Get over with a one night stand of my own.
- ☐ Attempt to work through the infidelity together or with a couples counselor.
- ☐ Forgive and forget, we all make mistakes.
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

If you identify as straight or gay, how often have you had an out-of-r sexual experience (ie, you're not straight, straight or even when had sex with a man)?

- ☐ Yes.
- ☐ No.

Tell us about it \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever gone to the hospital because of a sex- or masturbation-related injury?

- ☐ Yes.
- ☐ No.

Tell us about it \_\_\_\_\_

What, if anything, are you embarrassed/ashamed about sexually?

What's your biggest insecurity when it comes to sex?

If you're in a happily sexed-up, long-term relationship, what's your secret to keeping things hot?

Name the Vietnam celebrity you'd most like to bang.

What's your favorite sex scene in a movie?

Describe your favorite sexual fantasy \_\_\_\_\_

What else should we have asked?

Need some advice? Ask a question for Mistress Merve \_\_\_\_\_

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Right now everybody is concerned with making a living. **BUT YOU ALSO HAVE TO MAKE A LIFE.**

—RICHARD ZAGARIAN



Richard Zagarian

# THE

**P**rofessor Richard Zagarian stands with a slight stoop in the blackboard in Room B-422 of the University of Vermont's Living/Learning Center. He begins his last class of the semester the same way he begins all his classes: "Does anyone want to ask a question?"

None of the two dozen students in this medieval Judaea course has one. But over the next 90 minutes, Zagarian asks many of his own, in a teaching style that's part lecture, part Socratic debate.

Some of his questions are strictly factual: After Israel's war for independence in 1948, when Jerusalem became an international city who granted the local Moslems clergy the power to govern their own institutions? "It was a famous general who had an eye patch," Zagarian hints, "like the Hunchback that was." (Answer: Moshe Dayan.)

Other questions are more speculative: In the early 20th century, a neighborhood in Burlington was known as Little Jerusalem because of its relatively large population of Orthodox Jews. "Why isn't that community still here?" Zagarian asks.

"Israel's higher" guesses one student, to which his professor laughs but then acknowledges a kernel of truth in the answer.

In these years, Zagarian explains, Burlington's Orthodox Jews, most of whom worked in Vermont's wooden mills, didn't have yeshivas, or Jewish day schools, where their children could study full time. It's a problem that drove Zagarian's own family, also Orthodox Jews, out of Burlington. For 15 years he commuted to UVM from Albany, and then later from Mauney, NY, so his three children could attend yeshiva. His wife, Linda, agreed to move back to Burlington only if they could live within walking distance of the synagogue.

Zagarian's classes are fun in part because they're packed with interesting trivia: "The first course devoted to the study of the blackboard was taught at which university?" he asks. It was UVM. Zagarian's old friend, the late Saul Hilberg, created the course for what later became the university's Center for Holocaust Studies.

"Anybody missing in the Holocaust? Anyone? No?" Zagarian asks, looking around the room. When no hands go up, he gives a resigned shrug. His disappointment is understandable: Zagarian grew up in a predominantly Orthodox Jewish neighborhood in north Buffalo, NY, where one in every five residents was a "DIP" or displaced person, returned with a number from a Nazi death camp.



# WONDERING JEW

For UVM prof Richard Sugarman, life's big questions are the sweetest pursuit

BY KEN PICARD

But Sugarman's most intriguing questions are the ones without easy answers: those about the meaning of life and death, the phenomenon of time, and our duty to create a better world. He teaches in the religion department, but his formal training at Yale University and much of his published scholarship since then have been in philosophy. Notably, he's a world-renowned expert on the Lithuanian-born philosopher Emmanuel Levinas (1906-95), whom Sugarman calls "the preeminent post-Holocaust Jewish philosopher."

**IT WAS RICHARD SUGARMAN WHO CONVINCED BERNIE SANDERS TO RUN FOR MAYOR OF Burlington in 1981, a decision that launched his long and storied political career.**

For Levinas, the other comes before the self; Sugarman explains. In other words, ours responsibility to other people takes precedence over one's individual rights and needs.

To those who know Sugarman well, his fondness for Levinas makes sense. A self-described "ecumenicist," he cofounded the Living/Learning Center, which is all about fostering lasting relationships between Jewish and other students. And, by all accounts, no one is better at it than Sugarman.

That truth is obvious from talking with his Jewish students, some of whom assert religious rigors — or even rejection for his class — but attend just to be around him. During an interval when their professor is out of the room so they can complete their end-of-semester course evaluations, there's no shortage of students describing themselves as "sweet on Sugarman."

"He teaches knowledge and wisdom," one student says.

"He tells it like it is," says another.

"It's a worldly class," another chimes in. "I definitely learned a lot from him about life."

"We all have sort of a personal relationship with him," adds senior Allison Coppola. "You don't have to be interested by him. You can just talk to him."

Kaleb Dutoy, a senior, reveals one comment on his evaluation. Under the section that asks how this course could be improved, he suggests, "Make Sugarman more social."

Such glowing praise is typical. Sugarman, who's been teaching at UVM since 1978, consistently receives top marks from his students. Eight years of feedback about him on the website [www.sugarmansclass.com](http://www.sugarmansclass.com) attests to it: "Amazing!" "Amazingly brilliant!" "Hands down, one of the best professors I have ever had!" One wrote that Sugarman "brings students back to a time when teachers were life coaches!" Several students exclaimed, "I love him!" One wrote him as a grandfather.

"He's very open to all people," says Patrick Horton, a UVM history professor who, like Sugarman, teaches in the Integrated Humanities Program. "There's an ecumenical character to his religious understanding, where he relates to students of all faiths, as well as students who are primarily humanists."

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, one of Sugarman's oldest and closest friends in Vermont — the two roomed together in Burlington in the '70s and still meet regularly for long walks — is rarely spared in public. But Sanders has recognized the depth of emotion Sugarman's students feel for him, even decades after they graduate.

"What I represent one day, Richard," Sanders says, "I cannot walk down Church Street without people coming up to him who say, 'I was in your class 20 years ago and I had a profound impact on my life!'"

Sanders has felt that impact himself. It was Sugarman who convinced him to run for mayor of Burlington in 1981, a decision that launched his long and storied political career.

"He thought that I had a chance to win it," Sanders acknowledges. "I myself did not think that at the time, but Richard did."

Sanders knows as well as anyone why students are drawn to Sugarman. It's his warmth, intelligence, sense of humor and keen storytelling abilities.

"But I think young people also perceive that he really cares about them," Sanders adds. "Richard has deep feelings for people and has deep feelings about the world in which he lives."

Those people include Mark Gorman, students' chief of staff for the last six years. Gorman, who himself began teaching at UVM in 1977 and will return there in January, is also close to Sugarman. They frequently talk

by phone, sometimes for hours, discussing everything from sports to politics, a 17th-century philosopher, Sugarman. Gorman says, in a model to which professors should aspire.

Why? His relationship with his students, Gorman explains, isn't based on a desire for "disciples" who blindly follow his religious or philosophical pronouncements.

"He never expects that," Gorman says. "What Richard wants from his students is for them to live an inspiring life philosophically and that means constantly questioning things."

As an unapologetic Zionist, Sugarman is full of center on every issue "except Israel," but Gorman notes that Sugarman never tries to indoctrinate his students or bring his politics into the classroom.

"I think he brings his humanity into the classroom," Gorman suggests. "In my opinion, he is the single best teacher at the University of Vermont."

## CLASS OVER COLOR

Sugarman expressed profound surprise that someone is interested in talking his story "beyond the norm," he adds. "Did you see boys finally run out of people to write about?"

Sugarman offers it really just a small desk and computer in the common area of an office suite in Living/Learning. Here he often holds court with students on subjects ranging from French existentialism to his beloved New York Yankees.

Sugarman, at, suffers from arthritis and walks slowly with a hand-carved wooden cane. Still, he directs a visiting reporter to the more comfortable chair "for the PhD he has," he means.

Sugarman looks the part of a Jewish philosopher — albeit one of best-life stature who once boxed and played high school football. He sports a full salt-and-pepper beard and large black yarmenke, or skullcap, but wears the yarmenke, or traditional side locks, a customary among some Orthodox Jews. Dressed entirely in black, except for his white, perpetually untucked shirttail, Sugarman explains why the Orthodox wear black, modesty before God.

"I wear it," he adds, "because I don't like to think about clothes."

It's impossible to spend time with Sugarman and not discover his love sense of humor. When he says, "Now, that's a very interesting question," it invariably leads down a rabbit hole of musings that eventually circle back to some crucial point.



## The Wondering Jew 47:22

Rapaport was born in 1944, which, he notes only partly in jest, "William Churchill described as the worst year in human history." He still speaks with the long "W" of an eastern Buffalo. There, his father runs a wholesale fruit business, which explains his surname, which he believes was originally Strauss, from the Yiddish *strayser*, or seiger.

Actually, Rapaport's father and uncle were "in almost every business you can imagine," he says. "They were entrepreneurs — or would have had to have been." Among their short-lived enterprises was a PGA golf course his father and an uncle bought in Fort Kien, Ont., just across the Peace Bridge from Buffalo. That was at a time when most golf clubs wouldn't admit Jews — not that it made much difference to them.

"They couldn't afford to join. But nobody knew that," recalls Rapaport, who worked four summers at the club as a groundskeeper. "What did he know? 'No kasha golf,' he jokes.

Rapaport's religious upbringing was "mixed." His father's family was Hasidic Orthodox from Ukraine; his mother, Reform Jews from England. Rapaport's paternal grandfather expressed doubts that his mother was Jewish because she didn't speak Yiddish.

By age 13, Rapaport had entered his "adolescence" phase. He picked an essay about the biblical story of Abraham nearly sufficing his son, Isaac. Rapaport argued that Abraham was "totally irrational" and shouldn't have been allowed around children. It got him kicked out of Hebrew school. "I wish I'd known," he says, "that years later I would be writing about this [story] more sympathetically."

Wish to see an issue disappear? Ask Rapaport about the many jobs he's had: cleaning laboratory test tubes, selling balloons at the Buffalo Zoo, delivering the *Buffalo Evening News*. He quips that on his paper route, his dog got more tips than he did.

But Rapaport's most life-altering employment — before he discovered teaching, that is — was working at the Allied Chemical & Dye plant in Buffalo. He describes it as a lively, smothering and oppressive place to work. Several workers died during his employment there; the rest were checked for cancer every six months.

"That changed my view of life," Rapaport says. "I never had a religious epiphany, but I did have a political one."

In 1962, Allied Chemical employed about 12,000 workers. In those years, the plant had the best segregation: blacks working in one area, whites — predominantly Poles — in another.

When Rapaport was hired, he was asked whether he wanted to work with the blacks or whites. Since Poles and Jews didn't get along well, Rapaport joined the black unit.

After he had spent several hours chewing out an aggressively (in black foreman's words) he was working so hard, Rapaport remembers feeling that it confirmed every negative stereotype he had heard about African Americans. "That's the problem with you people!" he told his foreman. "You don't know the American work ethic. You'd never get off the job!"

The foreman just laughed. Two hours later, when Rapaport was getting tired, the foreman again asked how he was doing. Rapaport looked up and realized that all the black blacks were working at the same pace as earlier that morning. With a newfound respect, he asked his boss how long those men had worked at the plant.

"Since the '40s," Rapaport recalls the foreman saying. "I said, 'They've been here 27 years, doing the same work every day?' Incredibly, a light went on in my head."



In my opinion,  
**HE IS THE  
SINGLE BEST  
TEACHER**  
at the University  
of Vermont.

HUCK BUTHMAN



A third Rapaport with a group of his students

By quaring time, every worker in the plant, black or white, was the same color as that of whatever chemical dye they were producing that day. Class, Rapaport says, had transcended over race and ethnicity.

"I began to change my political outlook immediately," he adds. "I said, 'There's something profoundly wrong with the way I'm thinking.' Did it have to be that way? I didn't think so."

## SHUL DAYS

In the fall of 1963, Rapaport became the first member of his family to attend college. That was a big deal, especially in those years, he says, when White still had quotas for the number of Jews it admitted.

Initially, Rapaport told his mother he didn't want to go to "this boring it wasn't a real school," he remembers. Why? Its football team wasn't ranked in the top 20. "Can't I go to a real school?" he asked. "Like Ohio State?"

At Yale, Rapaport roomed with another future US senator, Joe Lieberman, whose mother encouraged Rapaport's religious observations.

"So we was in ligand phase," he recalls, "but his mother certainly wasn't."

She often invited the boys to their home for the Jewish high holidays. Years later, when Lieberman got married, Rapaport signed his ketubah, or Jewish marriage contract. "I think I signed it twice," he says.

When Rapaport's father died, Lieberman and his first wife traveled to Buffalo for the funeral. As the story goes, the couple was trying to get pregnant. And Rapaport's uncle told them that, according to the Kabbalah, or Jewish mysticism, it's easier to conceive a child right before a funeral.

"Nine months to the day, they had a child," Rapaport says.

Roger Duncan, now a philosophy professor retired from the University of Connecticut, also attended Yale with Rapaport. The two studied under philosopher John Wild, who eventually became Rapaport's mentor and introduced him to Levinas. Nearly 40 years later, Duncan and Rapaport collaborated on a book about Wild — which, Duncan recalls, they hammered out in five hours in a pub in Oxford, England.

Duncan recounts how Rapaport met his other formative philosophy instructor Paul Weiss, Yale's first Jewish professor. By the 1940s, Weiss was already famous. Rapaport was just getting into Jewish philosophy when he learned that, every day Weiss stopped at the same newspaper kiosk on a particular corner in New Haven.

One morning, Rapaport stationed himself at the newspaper kiosk. When Weiss stopped to check the headlines, Rapaport stepped up and introduced himself. Weiss was polite but curt, then turned off.

"At which point," Duncan says, "Richard yells after him, 'But not meeting you, Mr. Weiss!'" According to Duncan, Weiss was annoyed and invited Rapaport back to his office. The two soon became fast friends.

After finishing undergrad and graduate school at Yale, and then his doctoral coursework at Boston University, Rapaport broke out a job driving a taxi in Cambridge, Mass., a job for which, he readily admits, he was poorly suited.

"Richard could get lost in the rapaportist looking for a sign of transcendence," says Linda Nadelsohn, a former student of Rapaport's who later served as Sanders' first campaign manager and administrative assistant in Burlington City Hall. "But that's one of the smartest and most genuine people I know."

In 1970, Rapaport was offered a part-time job teaching philosophy in an experimental program at UVM that was a precursor to Living/Learning.

"They told me I'd be the philosopher-in-residence," he says. "That sounded better than driving a taxi!"

Ironically, it wasn't until Rapaport moved to Burlington, surrounded by more gentiles than Jews, that he began to appreciate a more traditional land of Judaism. He began attending Shabbat Gers, then an Orthodox synagogue on Arch Street.



"I said, 'You know, that is not so bad,'" he recalls. "I got to see hands there every Sabbath, which was the best food I had all week."

Duncan, who has stayed in touch with Sugerman, calls his old friend "a brain picker" — a devoutly religious man in a secular world who doesn't hide his deep faith yet to whom students look like "the real Pope."

"In the broadest sense, he's a thinker," Duncan explains. "And he's a thinker who attracts people not only because of his personality but because he has real thoughts, the kinds of thoughts that fresh men expect when they come to a philosophy course."

At some college departments of religion and philosophy "lose focus" and become more training grounds for jobs in academia, Duncan adds. "It's people like Sugerman who represent the real thing."

Sugerman, too, became that trend as higher education.

"Right now everybody is concerned with making a living. Perfectly understandable," he says. "But you also have to make a life."

## LIVING AND LEARNING IN BURLINGTON

In 1974, UVN's philosophy and religion department became two separate entities. In the process, several of Sugerman's philosophy colleagues were "purged." Sugerman joined the department of religion and has remained there ever since.

"I was against the split," he explains. "I'd already seen what happens when philosophy dealt with only narrowly defined questions, and I didn't want that. I thought the religion helped keep you focused on the larger questions of life."

The split manifested in such "bigger questions," Sugerman didn't just live in his head. For a time he worked as a dorm dad and "bouncer" at College Hall on the Redstone campus.

In 1979, an ex-Marine had moved into College who Sugerman jokingly describes as a "transient student from the Bronx Zoo. We learned later that his buddy was beating up guys at Blue High school. This guy was really misbegotten [crazy] and a living hell-bender."

One day, while Sugerman was volunteer at UVN's library, the Jewish student center, he learned that the ex-Marine was wandering some female students in his dorm room.

"Maybe I was looking for a fight. I don't think so," Sugerman reflects about the confrontation that ensued. The former Marine threatened Sugerman with a beer bottle, then shoved him against a wall, which led to a "big-ass-dick fight over a bummer" witnessed by scores of students.

The professor still recalls the fight as though it happened yesterday.

Sugerman, a former boxer, ultimately prevailed. Several administrators called to congratulate him — although, because the student matter served on the UVN board of trustees, the university never opened him or granted charges.

Most of the time, however, Sugerman wrestled not with big dreams but with big ideas. He can't remember exactly when he met Bernard Sanders, but he knows they were on a train together headed north to Vermont.

"I was coming back from finishing my doctoral dissertation," Sugerman says. "Bernard had a family reunion, which was probably just a coincidence." The two talked for hours on a variety of topics, including the economic inequities in Burlington.

"I was deeply disturbed by the fact that people who worked in the city couldn't afford to live in the city," Sugerman says. "I thought that was wrong."

Later, after Sanders got evicted from an apartment on Maple Street, Sugerman asked him to move into his place at 146 Cherry Street.

Eventually, the two got along famously. Sugerman recalls how times would often wake up — "Neither of us are the world's best sleepers," Sugerman says — and immediately launch into a discussion about some issue he'd been ruminating all night. "I said, 'Wouldn't you say 'hello' or 'good evening' first?'"

It was Sugerman, who recognized that, while Sanders did poorly in mainstream, he did amazingly well in Burlington.

"I think you can win," he remembers telling Sanders, "but we have to make this about concrete issues: neighborhoods and more seasonal things that people actually care about." And he became an unbelievable student of this craft.

In 1983, when Sanders was elected mayor by just 12 votes, it was Sugerman who oversaw the vote recount to make sure Sanders' victory wasn't stolen.

"Later I asked him, 'What's in it for me?'" Sugerman recalls. "He said, 'You got to be the constitution of reality.' It was an absurd position."

More than 10 years later, Sugerman still serves at times as the constitution of reality — for Sanders and others. His fellow philosopher Anne-Marie Haselwood, who was a close confidant of the late John Paul and told Sugerman that one of his journal articles on phenomenology inquiry was on the point of his enlightenment the day he died.

Characteristically, Sugerman is too modest to dwell on such things. He's just grateful to have had a career that leads itself to contemplation. As he puts it, "I certainly didn't want to go back to the factory or the golf course, or the zoo." ☐

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# The Shopper

Giving as good as it gets **BY CAROLYN FOX**

**THE SHOPPER** Carolyn Fox, 35  
**TOWN** South Burlington  
**JOB** Managing Editor, *Kids VT*

## Mother

Mom and I share the same work off each December, so it's become tradition to while away a couple of these hours at the movie theater. Rather than fighting off the crowds at the multiplex, this year we'll take "lunch and a movie" to new heights at Big Picture Cafe & Theater. Watching *Les Mis* over homemade Italian sodas and a Vermont cheese plate? Two-classy \$5.14 per movie ticket, average price per entrée is \$13-\$18.

**Big Picture Cafe & Theater in Shelburne**  
 800-854-4444 [bigpicturetheater.vt.edu](http://bigpicturetheater.vt.edu)

## Father

My family will never forget our trip to Post Falls, the drive through national preserve where a massive water buffalo came up and snuffed all over my dad's head one year. It was so worth it. Our last visit was years ago, so it's high time for another safari adventure — we'll be there in soon as it opens for the season in May. And we'll leave time for a car wash before driving home. \$599-\$11.55 day admission per person.

**Post Falls in Quebec, Canada** 490-547-2323  
[postfalls.com](http://postfalls.com)

## Teen Sis

Sis is a natural at snowboarding and stand-up paddleboarding. Unfortunately, Vermont's weather doesn't always let her practice her balancing act. To give her a year-round outlet for all of that energy, I'm gifting her a beginner's aikido class, so we'll practice to catch her when she falls 57-59.

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## Kid

### Brother

Since his school field trip to the Great Escape last spring, this little man hasn't stopped gushing about his adventures taking down the lazy river downriver. So this year, he'll love the twisting water slides and double-banded slides at the Pump House Kids at Waterpark, too. \$10-\$35 per day pass, free for kids under 4.

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## Boyfriend

To make up for the fact that I'll be vacationing in Italy without him next spring, I'm treating my guy to an overnights at the Norwich Inn. It's a beer park, so I've booked in the Ale at the Inn package, which includes some of the brewery's award-winning ales and a souvenir pint glass. Cheers, dude! \$209 per night.

**norwich inn** 800-843-2400 [norwichinn.com](http://norwichinn.com)

## Best Friend

When we're not watching old Charlie Chaplin movies, we're in the kitchen drinking wine and eating elaborate pasta dishes. For a fun change, I've signed us up for one of *Heidi by Heidi's Dark Night Out* classes, which let us cook, toast and leave the cleanup for somebody else. \$85 per pair.

**Heidi by Heidi's Market and Cafe** 800-555-5555  
[1.heidbyheidsmarket.com](http://1.heidbyheidsmarket.com)

**W**elcome to the holiday season — and to the Seven Days guide to gifts. Every Wednesday for the next few weeks, we're offering ideas for just about everyone on your list. We've got variety, a different writer weighs in each week, some set of recipients, unique presents of mind. (Note: Some of these gifts are figments of our imagination.)

*And what do we want this year? Just for you to shop local, please and thank you.* ☺



## Pet

Cats are a real lap cat — and then they climb, but so much. To keep her company when I'm not around, I'm getting her a little felt friend from Burlington-based Bay Shop Cuddles. Cuddles, made from non-toxic wool and filled with organic cotton, these colorful, handmade toys come in the shape of ducks, bunnies and "octopodoids." They're almost as cute as kittens. \$12.

[cuddlesbayshop.com](http://cuddlesbayshop.com)

## Grandmother

No one has a sweeter taste quite like my grandma, who always has a couple of Heidi's Koses tucked in her pocket, just in case. So I'm wishing her away to Brandon Mass Cids, where we can have a sophisticated visit over a traditional British tea service and dessert. The Chocolate Delight, topped with raspberry puree and cream, has her name on it. Average price per service is \$12 or under.

**Brandon Mass Cids** 800-465-4601 [brandon-mass-cids.com](http://brandon-mass-cids.com)



# Guitar Hero

Doug Perkins explores the bounds of acoustic guitar—with a little help from his friends

BY ANDY BRESNAHAN



**D**oug Perkins has played an immense number of roles he can remember, but having his name on the cover of his is something new for the veteran guitar picker. Now, with the release of his first solo record, *After: For Jim-Tap Guitars*, the longtime sideman is stepping out front.

Perkins has been a staple of the Vermont music scene since he migrated here after college in 1946 and soon established himself as one of the most versatile and instrumental blue-pickers around. He's played with Smokey Grass, Gordon Soren and numerous singer-songwriters with a

style that flows effortlessly from bluegrass to jazz to classical.

Last Saturday, the 54-year-old picker drew a standing-room-only crowd to his CD-release show at Burlington's Storey Theater. The microphone-wielding crowd was hepped up for the highly anticipated concert, but Perkins was characteristically low-key, sitting on a bench seat close to the door, he leaned in to the microphone and said softly, "Thanks for coming." Then he announced an only-in-Vermont special offer: "The first 30 people who buy a CD get an appreciably grown bulb from my guitar patch."

Perkins might be the farthest thing from a rock star. He plays with steadfast concentration, peering out from underneath a slick hat and bushy beard. His fingers fly up and down the fret board, but he hardly makes a move, save for the occasional head-bob. He lets his music do the talking. And his guitar has a lot to say.

Talking about his record over coffee in Waterbury last week, Perkins said humbly, "I just did what I could. I wanted it to be mostly original material. Thus you've got to find the guys to play the music you want to write."

For his debut album and release show, Perkins assembled what he calls his "dream band"—Jesse Mansfield on mandolin, Tyler Haines on bass and Patrick Ross on fiddle. All three are Perkins' old friends and longtime collaborators, but they had never before played together.

Then their first official meeting happened in Kristine Styler Poppen's studio in Chelsea, where *After* for Jim-Tap Guitars was recorded over a period of six months. Styler and her husband, Foggy Horton Green, bandleader Michael Milford, are neighbors of Perkins, who lives on 120 acres in the town of Waterbury. There he composes, practices and does occasional woodworking.

The all-instrumental *After* for Jim-Tap Guitars is composed of Perkins-penned tunes, jazz and waltzes, with a few traditional bluegrass fiddle tunes and three classical compositions—two by Bach, one by Chopin—chosen as fair good measures.

"Such was jazz," Perkins said. "I think I'm modern with these lines and chords, but I included it all 200 years ago. It fits me out, but it makes me feel connected to the way back."

Perkins' original songs are all new. He wrote the opening track, "Missie Patch Run," while working for the U.S. Census in 2000.

"Which McConnell doesn't need to worry," Perkins said, referring to the Republican U.S. Senate leader. "The government wasn't paying me for writing a song. It was on my lunch break."

"Lack Next 30" was co-written with Ross, when Perkins cut when Smokey

Grass recruited the Northwest Kingdom native as their fiddle player when he was 34. "His number would drive him to gigs," said Perkins, who called him one of the best fiddlers he's ever heard.

Mansfield is an even older friend, the Jazz Mandolin Project's first man and Perkins played their first gig together—with little duos of Pink on bass—in 1967 and have continued collaborating ever since. Haines is a relatively newer addition, though he's part of a trio with Perkins and Mansfield that performs with some regularity.

Perkins recorded the entire album with his 1969 Martin D-45—the gold standard in bluegrass music. The guitar is a weathered but beautiful instrument he bought for \$450 back in 1964. "It was in a drummer's closet. He was my bandmate," Perkins recalled. "I bought it on lay-away. I would give him my gig money."

Raised in Ridgewood, N.J., Perkins came south to attend college at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY. He studied classical guitar in high school but as a sophomore almost quit. "I've taken a few lessons," Perkins said. "I made a buttload of money in exchange for lessons from Paul Smith."

He played electric guitar in a college folk band called Chess and a rhythm and blues band called the Oscillators. At the time, Perkins didn't think much of bluegrass. "The first bluegrass I heard, I immediately dismissed as being stupid," he said. "I was stupid."

The record that changed his mind was the David Grisman Quintet's 1967 self-titled debut album, featuring that peeing legend Tony Rice on guitar. The DQG's blend of bluegrass, swing and gypsy jazz blew Perkins away. And it has clearly influenced his own songwriting.

"I like to think that David Grisman saved me from electric guitar," Perkins said. ☺

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# Magical History Tour

A new tour offers a drive-by version of Burlington's past

BY ALICE LEVITT



Only De Carolis in front of General George Washington's grave at Lakeview Cemetery

**W**hen a taxi man invites you to go to his van, it's usually not a good idea. But there's nothing sinister about Gary De Carolis' specially converted Ford. An attorney by the design from Vermont post cards on the vehicle's sides, he just wants to tell you about the history of Burlington. It's his oldest profession in this history which makes his Burlington History Tour an fascinating. "I've taken my 10-year-old grandson and made it a vacation," says De Carolis, who served three terms as a Burlington city councilor from Ward 4. More recently, he worked as child welfare director for Burlington's office of the Vermont Department for Children and Families. Now 62, De Carolis was considering retirement last summer when he took

a history tour with Burlington Discovery Tours in Manchester suddenly, he had found his next step. "I absolutely loved it," De Carolis remembers. "I thought, Gosh, I could do this in my lifetime." A history major in college, De Carolis left the DCF in October and launched Burlington History Tours on November 15. Though he still works as a freelance speaker and consultant to child services groups as president of the Center for Community Leadership, De Carolis now offers tours seven days a week. Of course, he is not the only one to be leaving Burlington History alive. Preservation Burlington hosts archaologically focused walking tours all year long, while Queen City Cabaret concert shows on Halloween beginning each summer. University of

Vermont professor emeritus William Averit takes guests on a walk through the campus past. While these tours all cover small, walkable areas, however, De Carolis employs his van to get an overview of the city in just two hours.

So far he's been hired to lead just four groups, but the amateur historian hopes that word of mouth and his website and Facebook pages will begin attracting locals and tourists alike.

The bright van's presence on the road is likely to grab attention, especially as it often drives at just 10 or 15 miles per hour to give participants plenty of time to look around. The van also fills a hole in Battery Park, parking where Vermont Bus spends its summers, so De Carolis can start the tour in case of Burlington's worst winter snows.

In a New Jersey incident, he speaks slowly and evenly about severe weather to check his notes for dates or specifics. If he sometimes appears distracted on the road, with a few pedestrians near misses, it's because he seems to be seeing the city of another time.

De Carolis begins by gathering participants in the park overlooking Lake Champlain. He points out Beck Drucker, the 30-foot statue that projects out of the water about three miles from shore. The rock was known to the Abenaki and Algonquian as *Wah-joo-see*, *Golden Horn*, or "the horn created himself." The legendary figure began as a legend spirit. As he drifted himself across Vermont, he created the mountains and even Lake Champlain. Wah-joo-see judged that particular achievement so great that he decided to face himself with a rock and stay in the lake forever.

Thousands of years in the pre-Newfound de Champlain era, the rock was a spiritual force, worthy of worship. During the French and Indian War, De Carolis says, Black Diamond served as a meeting place for drawing up attack plans. In the War of 1812, the island was short full of cannons, which are still occasionally found by visitors there.

"Burlington was chartered in 1784, but no one lived here," De Carolis says. Before 1812, battles between the French and the British, then between the American colonists and the British, left the shore too dangerous for heavy settlement. The numerous



waterfront battles of 1812 finally made the Champlain Valley safe enough to inhabit.

As a small group gets in the van for a recent tour, De Carolis mentions that a glass factory opened across from Battery Park just after the components of the War of 1812 dispersed. It marked a new era. The factory became necessary when Burlington's postwar lumber industry boomed, filling the city with people who moved into the houses being built along what is now North Street — houses that needed lots of windows.

As we wind our way down Madinet Street, De Carolis points out one curious house. What he calls a "significant prohibited house" first came to Burlington as a place for the owner's illegitimate keeper to live right on the breakfast bar; the keeper preferred to come out to his post each day, so, in 1865, the house was moved to dry land. Just around the corner, on

Jefers Street, a small, early-18th-century house that has been renovated and expanded over the years once served as a water-tight office building. The original, almost trailer-like box is a visible hunchback of white additions.

De Carolis mentions that several residents of Pitkin and Blodgett streets had unpleasant surprises when they attempted to make home improvements. They uncovered the remains of fallen 1812 soldiers.

These houses stand on what was once a woods backing the Battery Park barracks of the soldiers, who are now buried beneath a memorial in Lafayette Terrace.

Battery Street, originally known as Water Street, was Burlington's first "The Admiral of the Lake" Andrew King Jr., who controlled commerce on the waterway for 30 years, chose to make his home just off it, so the street itself named for him. De Carolis tells us that early-18th-century Burlington businessmen had right on the main drag.

Like King's red brick house, the home of Dr. John Penney currently offers office space for lease. Potential renters may be able to conduct business as one of the rooms where the good doctor attended to medical students beginning in 1804. Penney would help establish the University of Vermont college of Medicine, the first medical program in America that was part of a state school.

Penney lived in a good place to keep bodies cool for dissection — just across the street from three courthouses. One occupied an 1808 building that housed down

in 1868, was rebuilt and moved home to the Ice House Restaurant & Bar. De Carolis hands out cards granting the tour participants 20 percent off at the restaurant.

The next-oldest section of town runs along Pearl Street — today, an early street from when King or Penney wanted to make that walk, however, they had to take a more roundabout route. "The route literally cut the city in half," De Carolis explains. Traces of the deep, northeast by southwest channel are still visible along Pearl Street and across parts of College, Main and Church Streets.

When Burlington's residents undertook to fill the ravine, they initially used little more than wood chips and sods, leaving some buildings on less-than-steady footing. In 1975, all the books at the Fletcher Free Library had to be moved to city hall, causing Anderson when the building's foundation began buckling due to a shift in the already saturated. The new library opened in 1981, the year De Carolis became a city councilor.

The tour winds down with a jaunt past the UVM campus. De Carolis says what he tells guests there is only in divided terms of what he'd like to share about the area. To cover the details, he'll need to add a pedestrian version of Burlington History Tours — something he plans to do when warm weather returns in 2013.

These spring tours, De Carolis says, will walk their way up Pearl Street and past the university, perhaps stopping at North Willard Street and its homes of the Victorian elite. He also imagines an "off-the-beaten-path" tour that would take visitors to areas including the sea caves off North Avenue and the quarry of Shelburne Road.

De Carolis closes his tour with a visit to the graves of Ethan and Ann Allen at Devonian Cemetery and then to those of Andrew King Jr. and other Water Street-area luminaries at Elmwood Cemetery.

Our group disembarks back at Battery Park. The opportunity to close doors and take a closer look at Burlington, its buildings and its history has been eye opening. Along for the ride with De Carolis, the past lives on — side by side with the present. B

**B** Burlington History Tours, 888-830-0303  
burlingtonhistorytours@gmail.com  
burlingtonhistorytours.com  
Tour members are welcome from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. \$10 per person.

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# Hall Mark

A local baseball historian lends his vote to the game's Hall of Fame

BY DAN ROLLES

**O**n July 26, 2013, the next class of candidates will be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. We won't know until January if the likes of Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens or Curt Schilling will be considered worthy of enshrinement by the Baseball Writers Association of America — the frailty elections changed with retiring such matters.

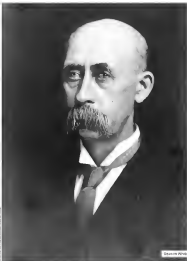
But a vote held during Major League Baseball's annual winter meetings in Nashville earlier this month found three men from a bygone era deserving of inclusion. "It better be that posthumous honor, the Hall of Fame voted to, among others, Burlington's resident baseball historian, Simon Simon.

Simon sat on a special subset of baseball's veterans committee, the pre-integration panel, which was convened to assist the merited candidates active in the era before Major League Baseball allowed nonwhite players. The 18-member panel included a mix of former players, including Hall of Famers Bert Blyleven, Don Sutton and Phil Niekro, executive personnel, and two historians, Peter Morris and Simon. They eventually gave baseball's highest honor to New York Yankees owner Jacob Ruppert (1863-1938), umpire Hank Thiry (1863-1932), and two-handed catcher Deacon White (1842-1906), chosen from 30 candidates of the late 1900s and early 1900s deemed to have been overlooked by previous HOF voting bodies.

"Along with my wedding day, being part of this panel was the most amazing experience of my life," says Simon, 87.

Simon, a local attorney, is the author or coauthor of several books documenting baseball's earliest era. Last year, he published *The Wonder Team in the White City* at the Intercollegiate Baseball Tournament of 1889, in which he tells the story of the University of Vermont baseball team in the 1890s. In those days, Simon relates, UVM was a powerhouse squad regarded as one of the dominant teams in the history of collegiate baseball.

Simon is also a founding member of the Vermont chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). Baseball is his great passion. "That and his



Source: Photo

demonstrated expertise led the Hall of Fame to co-opt calling this ball.

"We have known about Tom's work, his authenticity of books, his passion of era within the broadly defined pre-integration era," says Bradford Hunt, the Hall's senior director of education and communications. "The passion, the intellect and historical knowledge he brings make him a good fit for this committee, which heavily relies on historians."

Qualifying for the Hall, whether as a player, manager, umpire or executive, is considered by weighing an specific criteria: second, ability, integrity, sportsmanship, character and contributions to the game. In evaluations of modern players — suspected steroid use aside — statistics compare a relatively black-and-white picture of who belongs in the Hall. But one can make no apples-to-apples comparisons when weighing the accomplishments of

players such as White against those of an umpire such as O'Day or an exec such as Ruppert. Coming up with a way to compare these individuals, both with their contemporaries and with subsequent generations, was the pre-integration panel's great challenge.

"They don't give you any guidelines for weighing these factors," Simon says. "You're basically left to use your own judgment."

So how to compare them? How do you translate stats from those who played in an era when it took five strikes to strike out a batter — or eight balls for a walk — into those of the modern three strike era? And what to do with nonplayers such as Ruppert and O'Day, for whom there are no measurable statistics available?

"You look at contributions to the game," Simon says.

Given the era under consideration that challenge demands the expertise of historians. Their own contributions was not lost on Niekro, who credited Simon and Morris in remarks to the Associated Press following the panel's vote.

"It's tough to go back into the 1800s and bring that to life," said the famed knuckleballer, then 73.

White sat alone in his appreciation for Simon's ability to serve a just era, Simon says. He and Blyleven became fast friends during the deliberations, which Simon often to being questioned in a jury he says the former "tosses me, at, poked him for info during meetings and dinners."

"Simon had done his homework," Simon says. "But he had a lot of great questions."

Simon never allowed to discuss specific arguments for or against candidates. But he can speak to their accomplishments. For example, he says Ruppert made two huge contributions in the game. For starters, he was the guy who brought Babe Ruth from the Boston Red Sox in 1919.

"Significantly that's one of the most important things that happened in the history of baseball," says Simon.

Ruppert's other major contribution was financing the original Yankee Stadium out of his own pocket. Though it was dubbed "The House That Ruth Built," it was



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## SPORTS



Mark D. Gay

Support's money that gave the Yankees their fabled Bronx home in those days before public financing was used to build across the great state would become the win-stript in American sports history.

"A lot of people are surprised to learn Support wasn't already in the Hall of Fame. People just assume he had been in the 50 or 60 years," Simon says. "That's really the purpose of committees like this one."

"It's designed as a second chance, a review committee," says the HOF's Horn. He adds that voting criteria for the Hall have changed several times over the years,

**HOW DO YOU TRANSLATE STATS FROM THOSE WHO PLAYED IN AN ERA WHEN IT TOOK FIVE STRIKES TO STRIKE OUT A BATTER — AND EIGHT BALLS FOR A WALK — INTO THOSE OF THE MODERN THREE-STRIKE ERA?**

so statisticians who were not cloistered under previous guidelines may measure up by the current yardstick, revised in light of research by historians such as Simon.

Both Simon and Horn reject any suggestion that committees such as the pre-integration panel exist simply to get more people into the Hall. Even under evolving guidelines, they say only the top 3 percent of potential candidates will be elected.

"You have to be beyond exceptional," says Simon. ☐

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# SIDEdishes

BY COVIN HIRSH & ALICE LEVITT

## New Tomatoes

NEW CHEF HELPS REVAMP BURLINGTON'S THREE TOMATOES TRATTORIA

THREE TOMATOES TRATTORIA has become a Church Street local hot spot since it opened more than 20 years ago at Sweet Tomatoes. But, according to co-owner ROBERT MEYERS, 2012 will bring big changes to the old Burlington favorite.

"At this point, it's still a work in progress," Meyers says. "But really it's going to be great for Burlington." Meyers and fellow owner JIM BELLAH have partnered with New York chef and owner of THE IRON ROOSTER in

Claver is actively searching for a new full-time chef.

Meyers says that in January, Three Tomatoes will begin renovations that will produce a new lounge area, better view lines in the dining room and improved outdoor seating. Though he prefers to wait until the new year to share more specifics, Meyers divulges that the menu "will certainly have a new twist." (The changes will not affect the other Three Tomatoes locations in Wilton, Bedford and Lebanon, N.H.)

BelLAH's recent Burlington specials — including homemade pork sausage with baked white beans and greens, and braised seafood pasta with shrimp, scallops and olives — hint at the rustic, handmade approach to come.

## On the Road Again

CLUB 9 CATERING RENOVATES A FOOD TRUCK

Where can you get a "chickendeviant" made with local, wheat-fed pigs and Colort Chickenhead Chicken, raise a bowl with homemade noodles, braised chicken tortis, and headsuppie? In the great outdoors.

On November 30, CLUB 9 CATERING introduced its new, self-contained food truck at Champlain College's Fall Jam. Last week, the truck made appearances at GREEN CORN in Essex and Shepherds Vineyard. But Club 9 owner SARAH MORAN says the truck, which she and chef LIKE STONE brought up from Mystic, Ct., won't spring fully into action until the start of the new year.



"We're going to take this winter and mess around with ideas," says Stone. The converted 1964 Ford truck is equipped with a fryer, grill and grill; to perhaps most importantly, it's heated. That means the elements won't stop Stone and his team from serving the daily menu's six or seven items to hungry Vermonters all winter long.

The chef plans to begin with lunch service in and around Burlington before adding breakfast. A Burlington resident, Stone also hopes to find clients near Page Park Tavern or Mill River Cider.

As for the truck's name, Moran has put the question out to a marketing class at Champlain College, which is devising one to their that soon. "We don't want to penicillinate ourselves with it," Moran says.

Names can be tricky indeed, as Moran found when Club 9 Catering's summer-only cart, the WHAT.FIN, drew complaints from Noble Pig Vineyard and Winery in Colton, Ore. "The artisan hot-dog cart may or may not change its number when winter weather returns, Moran says. "My lawyer wrote [the lawsuit], 'What was the last time you confused Frosty with a hot dog?'"

"What's in a name?" We're more interested in gilded cheese with homemade larders colored made in house by baker PAUL BARTHELEMY, cheese steaks and a watercress taste of the sausage that won't over last summer.



ROBERT MEYERS

lured new chef JIMMY VELLA "to move into the next 20 years," as Meyers puts it.

Vermonters may recognize Vella as former chef at the RED OCEAN OIA RESTAURANT in Kipling, where he gained a reputation for pairing wine with his family-favored, European-influenced menu. For more, the upscale man has replaced Vella with chef BARRY DEBRUIN, former NEW ENGLAND CULINARY INSTITUTE chef-instructor and current executive chef at seasonally TUCKER PLACE FAMILY RESTAURANT in Highgate Springs, Ind.

## Southern Comfort

THE SLAMBY DINING ROOM AND BAR AT FALLS FALLS CIDER TO KIDDO

Vermont's northeast corner just got a food-friendly foothold: A long-planned community-supported restaurant opened this week, and the historic HILL YELLOW FALLS CIDER will soon be back in business.

In Putney, the SLAMBY restaurant opened officially on December 16, though a string of special events throughout the fall had already given neighbors a taste of the high-level fare of chef DANIEL SANCHEZ, former executive chef at the BURLINGTON COUNTRY CLUB.

Last summer, famed Vermonted the community's appetite for the entry by "kingship" at the Putney Farmers Market and cooking up and selling the ingredients he found on the spot.

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# Cornering the Market BY TOM



THE MIGHTY PORK SHANK LAY ON A BED OF MACARONI AND CHEESE AND BRAISED COLLARD GREENS IN A POT BIG ENOUGH TO HOLD FOOD FOR A MEDIUM-SIZE FAMILY.

A pair of chulboards show the bar roster 28 beer options on tap, including cult Vermont brands Lawson's Finest Liquids, Mill Forested Brewery and Middlehead Brewing. Hard-to-find beers from around the country are also available, along with Polar Blue Ribbon and Red Light.

The racks, or selections from the full bar or boutique wine list, are perfect for accompanying any of LaCler's offerings, divided on the menu into six categories, including Pub Fare, Burgers & Truss and meaty Cornucopia Cuts.

I begin with a salad of tender, roasted cubes of red and golden beets. Though beet-and-cranberry salads with goat cheese have become a Vermont menu staple, Germaine's version is a cut above. The cheese is exceptionally creamy and tangy, but it's the viscous maple vinaigrette and roasted pine nuts in place of croutons that separate this salad from the pack.

A plate of fish tacos reflected the kitchen's trend of enticed portions, with two huge tacos for \$10 served as special two children to prevent spillage, the four-termites were filled with thick, meaty chunks of blackened swordfish. Some were messier than others, but

crisp, response-heavy brown's slaw, combined with nutmeg's sageomise ( slices of avocado, served to alleviate any dryness stripes of chipsos such might have seemed excessive if not for the pleasant touch of heat they imparted. I also enjoyed dipping my toes in a sizzle of garlicky french fries, quite different from the "friesome" french fries from Phay Fong Foods that most restaurants use.

Though our very knowledgeable server, Colby, pointed to us we wouldn't be overwhelmed by all the food we ordered, our mouths hung open as she proffered the BBQ Braised Pork Shank. The mighty specimen lay on a bed of succulent and cheese and braised collard greens in a clay pot big enough to hold food for a medium-size family.

Just would have meant nothing if the dish weren't delicious, but the shank was brined for a juicy slurry that permeated the tender meat all the way down to the bone. It compared favorably with the best pork shank I've ever had, in Warsaw, where the skull-sized beast, called a golumka, was braised in beer and

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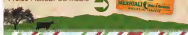
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## Cornering the Market

heavy Chef LeClair confirmed that both were ingredients in his own recipe.

If the meat of the dish reminded me of Ireland, the sides were straight from the South, with a hint of Vermont. The sweetness of the richly salty pork grease was slightly overbearing on its own, but its fragrant notes covered its shortcomings. 2-year-old Graven Village cheddar and well-cleaned, mild jalapeños, they found a most fortunate match.

An ideal balance of sweet and savory was also key to the success of the duck confit. The cured leg meat was unusually flavorful, picking a pinch of thyme and rosemary. The skin was evenly crisped, without the toughness that often mars restaurant duck confits.

The food turned atop a pile of soldier beans, sliced with crisp bacon prepared according to an intensely maple-flavored, but not too sweet, recipe from Motherfly and LeClair's grandmother. The effect was of a Vermont play on one another. Big leaves of kale sautéed with chopped garlic added a pungent smoky effect to the otherwise mellow dish.

To go containers in hand, I still had a small pinch of external real estate reserved for dessert. Fortunately, the events at Cornerstone are served in small Mason jars for manageable portions. Unfortunately, there are many from which to choose.

Each day, stations in the culinary arts program at the Barre Technical Center prepare a few different trifles for Cornerstone's diners. Though a peanut-butter-and-chocolate trifle



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was tantalizing, I couldn't resist the Thin Mint variety. A dense chocolate mousse provided the bottom layer for a sandwich of moist chocolate-cooked cookies topped with a foamy light mint meringue.

Like the trifle, just of ice cream from Scott's Honor were attractively presented on J.R. Adams wood boards embellished with straight-from-the-farm designs — a chicken for the trifle, carrots for the ice cream.

The wares of Scott's Honor, an ice cream maker located inside Whitefield's Sweet Spot, are a prime pick for Cornerstone. I sampled a salted-caramel scoop that captured the burn-sugar taste of real caramel in a luxuriously creamy frozen treat. Even better was midnight-dark Valrhona chocolate laced with three locally grown chiles. The pepper tasted fresh, with a slightly vegetal shade that dissipated in a slow, subtle burn at the back of my throat.

It was a strong ending to a meal that surpassed my high expectations. I'm only sorry I couldn't experience more than one meal at Cornerstone before writing this review. It meant that I missed out on the popular edamame burger, the pan-seared diver scallops with battered squash risotto and the almost erotically arousing short-rib potstew.

But I'll be back. And so will Barre. **D**

## McKenzie Dinner Hams



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# **SIDEdishes** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47

Concurrently, he and partners **LEE EMMERSON** and **ALAN JAMES** collected shares from community members to renovate the restaurant, supporters have three years to spend these shares.

Central to the Glossery's mission is collaborating with local farms: "If they grow it, we will cook it," Elmerberg writes on the Glossery's website. In fact, the kitchen is grabbing meat, veggie and grains from **SWIFT TRAIL FARM** in Thompsonville and **WESTMINSTER FARM**, among others, and chooses from as far away as the **WON'TRIP FARMSTEAD** in Watfield.

All of that bounty is woven into the Glossery's simple menu, with starters ranging from a firm and sprightly salad with fig dressing and cheese frittata to a "scalloped duck" (one served with apple purée, the other made into an orange-basil ceviche). The kitchen gathers Vermont cheeses — such as **JACKSONVILLE** Apple Blossom Blue and **LADY LARK FARM'S** Tonnare Delia — on a \$13 cheese platter, and turns out entrees such as local lamb meatballs over pappardelle, sautéed skate with fried egg and black-pepper greens, and Humane Meat Two Ways — a strip loin with orange-braised, caramelized root vegetable beak and pea puree.

Up the road in Bellows Falls, the Miss Bellows Falls Dinner — closed since June — is expected to reopen this month, according to an Associated Press



Swift Trail Farm

report that appeared as far away as the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

Last summer, **ALAN** and **WENDY MCALISTER** purchased the cozy, 80-year-old diner, which has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1983. The McAlisters already know a thing or two about dining — they run **FURNBERG RESTAURANT** in nearby Westminster.

Located at 133 Main Street in Putney, the Glossery is open for dinner from Friday through Sunday. The Miss Bellows Falls Dinner is mounted on the northern edge of Bellows Falls at 80 Rockingham Street.

—A.L.

## **Crumbs**

LEFTOVER FOOD NEWS

**P**UNHATT'S ORGANIC MARKET OFFICE **MARILYN HUBBARD** has been selected by the Vermont Land Trust to purchase and run **Putney's HUBBARD** where she plans to relocate her company and produce artisan butter from pasture-raised cows.

Maura calls the choice "the fulfillment of a lifelong dream" in an announcement on her website. Last year, her *Albany* crematory building was destroyed in a fire, for the past few months, Maura has managed Waterbury's **COCK WINE BAR & MARKET**. At her new crematory, she expects to produce 5000 pounds of butter per year, and several local restaurants have already signed up to serve it.

The VLT purchased the 48-acre farm in Acquit, put a portion in eminent and sought to sell the rest to a farmer. The land trust still needs to raise roughly \$200,000 toward the farm's construction, those willing to donate can do so at vlt.org.

After three years in business, Northfield's **MAINE BOUNTY RESTAURANT** has closed. A notice on its Facebook page attributes the closure to "health reasons." The owners are still taking orders for holiday pie and catering. We wish them the best.

—C.H.

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**W**rapped in wax, white paper, a round of Little Colonians from Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company sort of resembles a doorknob. Peel back the paper and there sits the tangy rind, though, and it's clear why the staff comes in such large wheels: triple, rich and nutty, it's instantly melt-in-your-mouth — and it comes even more alive when paired with a local sparkling cider such as Woodstock Island Cider.

Besides being delicious together, both products are poster children for the rise of the Vermont food brand, which made good strides this year. The appeal of Vermont-

The milk that goes into Lilié doesn't travel far, much of it comes directly from the herd of Jersey Holsteins and Ayrshires cows that graze on the company's 10-acre hillside in North Woodstock, regains its temperature-controlled water beds and yield nearly 2400 pounds of milk each day.

Even that quantity does not satisfy demand, which has increased so sharply — it is less for all of VTDC's cheeses — that the company regularly trucks in milk from other Vermont dairy farms. Just last month, VTDC announced that its products would begin shipping to 18 other states.

Like many successful Vermont brands,

choosing inside a glass, rectangular vat, the other side of the glass, vice president of treasury operations and head cheese maker Rick Woods darts around in a white coat, he eventually emerges through a steel door to chat.

Woods was hired to VTDC after 16 years of cheddar making at Griffin Village Cheese Company, he explains. Ever since he took his current job, he says, "It's kind of been the 400 to think out of the box and do different things."

For instance, Lilié Colonians, which is a thicker, more intense version of Brie, is one of several "artisan processed cheeses"

photo op, and we put him to work," jokes Woods. Governor's Cheddar recently won a bronze medal at the American Cheese Society's 2013 awards.

Having to the public's appetite for flavored cheeses, Woods uses bitters, jalapeño peppers and maple to flavor some of his cheeses — which are first aged, then double-ripened and re-ground. "They're really unlike," Woods says.

The awards began to arrive early, and the company's growth has been faster than anyone anticipated. Earlier this year, VTDC opened a storage and affilage facility in nearby Woodstock, in the same industrial park as Harpoon Brewery and the new Burlington American Crafted Spirits. Just off Interstate 95, it's a more visible and accessible location than tucked-away North Woodstock.

It was a wise move on the company's part: For food producers hoping to tap the ever-increasing demand for Vermont-made products, remote locations can be a challenge. As Liz Kane puts it, "Quite a few people are out in the boonsies."

Kane is the New England "forager" for Whole Foods Market. He is in charge of a team that finds products to stock all the household giant's 28 regional stores — "It's by next year," he says. Many of those products come from Vermont.

"I try to get up there as much as I can. It's a state filled with amazing, very passionate producers, and it's a state that is not big enough to take care of their needs," Kane says plainly. "A lot of Vermont producers have told us that they've tapped out the Vermont market as much as they can. They need to expand their market in order to stay alive and grow their business."

After all, 680,000 people — or the fraction of the population that does the family grocery shopping and forces value-added products — can only buy so much Lilié or

# The Little Brand That Could

Vermont's food cachet is coming of age **BY COBIN WIRCH**



made products there's no sign of peaking — especially as it grows to encompass sports, meat and even wine.

"It's had this strong and solid momentum for many years, but now, more than ever, it's incredibly compelling and sticky," says Kathy Murphy, the state's chief marketing officer, at the Vermont brand. "The working landscape is the natural theme for all of these products, and as that is leveraged forward, that much is increasing."

Whether Murphy calls the "clean, honest, humble and natural" attributes of the state's food brand are embodied in the precipitous growth of the 13-year-old Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company, which produces Lilié — a soft ripened cheese that has picked up a handful of awards already

VTDC cheeses have a great story behind them. It began with the bonding together of a few neighbors in 1989 to start an artisan water-buffalo farm and prevent it from becoming a neighborhood.

"This had been a farm for a long time," says Sherry Hunter, VTDC's director of marketing, explaining why 14 locals banded to form an LLC and raise more than a million dollars to buy the property from its previous owner. Once they did, a "new wave" discussion led to the decision to turn away from field milk and toward a value-added product, cheese.

As Hunter relates VTDC's backstory, the guests through a window separating a hallway from the brightly lit cheese making room, where several batches of Lilié sit

than Woods and then-head cheese maker Tom Gilbert topped to help build the VTDC brand.

Woods also developed Woodstock — crumblier and slightly tangier than cheddar — which he adopted from an 1800s Woodstock recipe provided by an English colleague. The Woodstock comes in a variety of flavors, including one infused with Harpoon Chocolate Stout. There's also Irresistible Tiramisu, a cheese that originated with Dutch immigrants in France, and a Sugarcoated Kefir specified with lemongrass. During a visit last year, Dave Peter Abbotson unexpectedly found himself helping craft a cheddar, a batch that VTDC then aged and dubbed Governor's Cheddar. "He thought he was coming here for a

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extreme from goat's milk fat (made in Brooklyn) Or simple cotton candy from Windham's Jelly Maple Products, which Kane says sells like crazy in Whole Foods.

"People love this pastured image in their heads of what a Vermont farm looks like," Kane adds, "and, by and large, that could be an accurate image — justice, class, organic whenever possible."

Kane and his team sometimes find new products at state-sponsored meet-and-greets that he likens to speed-dating events. "You spend 10 minutes with each vendor, then you move on to a new vendor." That is how Kane discovered Red like Candy, another young Vermont food company that has rapidly expanded into other states, primarily via Whole Foods Market. "I had my history and my specialty foods coordinator literally fighting over that product for their departments," he says.

Kane recognizes that, in addition to quality and flavor, backstory is part and parcel of the enduring success of the Vermont brand. "More than anything, people are looking for natural, unadorned things that have a really distinct, unique and wonderful flavor profile," Kane says, "and, more than anything, they're looking for a terrific story."

That combo of stellar product and feel-good narrative was also instrumental to the recent meteoric rise of Woodchuck Cider. In October, the Middlebury cider maker, officially named Vermont Hard Cider Company, was snapped up by Irish giant G&C Group — which makes Magners and Bulmers Cider — for the lofty sum of \$400 million.

The snatched purchase offer came as a surprise to Vermont Hard Cider president Brett Williams, who said, everything he had run Woodchuck when it was in the

**MORE THAN ANYTHING,  
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UNIQUE AND WONDERFUL  
FLAVOR PROFILE, AND...  
THEY'RE LOOKING FOR  
A TERRIFIC STORY.**

LEE KANE,  
WHOLE FOODS

vege of failing in 2003. "I never thought I'd sell the company," Williams says. "We never tried to get bigger, we just focused every day on trying to get better. As a result, we started to grow."

Though Woodchuck bottles three million cases of cider each year, the company still has trouble keeping up with demand, and last spring it launched a multi-million-dollar expansion to add a major center and new vine production facilities. Then the deal appeared.

While Williams chalks up the company's success to luck as well as to the growing number of cider drinkers, the Vermont apples has a lot to do with it, too, after all, Vermont apple juice makes it into every bottle. "We've tried to model the brand and the company the same way we view Vermont as a whole good people doing good things," Williams says.

"That message was so powerful that it traveled across the pond. When we taste their cider, we recognize the same simple

principles that we use today — local farms, straightforward farming and no additives," says Anne Brann, G&C's managing director of the international division. "Though I think we fell in love through taste rather than something else. First, Vermont represents a very peaceful life, a great attitude, sustainability — complexity in line with what our brand stands for," he continues. "It's a simple story: local apples, sustainable and green."

G&C is not interested in changing a thing about Woodchuck, Brann says — not formulas, not employees and certainly not plans for new products, such as a cider aged in bourbon barrels.

At the Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company, new cheese is under development, too, as are sausage partnerships with other Vermont producers. Last week, for instance, the company announced that it had acquired Castagna Crackers.

VP&C is committed to spreading the gospel that cheese production can help transform Vermont's flailing dairy industry and revive the working landscape. The company funds scholarships at area colleges for aspiring young dairy farmers with plans to create value-added products.

"We think that Good milk is not a way for people to make a living anymore," marketing director Huntley says. "We want to show young farmers that cheese making can be profitable and to show that there is a business to be had in dairy farming."

"To see the number of Vermont dairy farms decline has been heartbreaking," adds cheese maker Woods, who grew up in Covington. During his lifetime, the dairy farms in his hometown have completely disappeared. "If people knew that Vermont has amazing traditional cheese," he says, "we all benefit." Q

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# calendar

**THU 12 12 30**

**DEEP DOWN A WILLIAM LANE** The Vermont storylines focus on the latest publication, where Robert shows an illustrious parade about lessons learned from his childhood. Public Library 8 p.m. Free info: 252-4538

**FRI 14**

**6 PM**

**ARTS AND CRAFTS** A part of the 2008 Holiday Open House. Bookstore, local artists, handcrafted merchandise, jewelry, books, and more. Jannet's Bookstore 8 p.m. Free info: 532-5222 jannet@jannetsbookstore.com

**6:30 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL BOUTIQUE** See WED 12 12 30 to 12 30 p.m.

**7 PM**

**VERMONT COMEDY RELAY TOUR** Tim Kowalski's radio show of laughs, featuring local comedians. Live at 1000 Vermont Street. Tickets \$10. Free info: 252-4538

**8 PM**

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**A VERY HOT HAT**  
Green Mountain Cabaret & Music  
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SEVENTEEN



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## calendar

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### health & fitness

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### holidays

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A reminder about exclusive Seven Days events, contests, deals and giveaways



A summary of the best weekend events and newest articles, blog posts and videos



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Occasional news for tech types including the latest about the annual Vermont Tech Jam



Local info, events and resources for busy parents

## SEVEN DAYS

[sevendaysvt.com/enews](http://sevendaysvt.com/enews)







## CLASSIFICATION



# Out of the Loop

Wilco's Nels Cline introduces a new, stripped-down project with Julian Lage

BY SAM BELLIS

**L**ONG BEFORE HE WAS FETTERED IN WILCO OR ROLLING STONE named him one of the 100 greatest guitarists of all time (and *Spin* among the top 50), Nels Cline worked in relative obscurity. But since joining Wilco in 2004, his talents have become known to audiences beyond just smart-garde jazz aficionados and serious guitar geeks. That increased visibility has shed light on Cline's numerous other projects, from his improvisational jazz trio, the Nels Cline Singers, to myriad collaborations with the likes of Tom Waits, Charlie Haden, Yoko Ono and Thurston Moore, among many others. His latest endeavor is an improvisational project with 24-year-old guitar phenom Julian Lage. Unlike much of Cline's work, which often includes all manner of loops and effects-pedal wizardry, he and Lage are playing it straight, as it were, exploring the limits of free improvisation with nothing more than a pair of hollow-bodied guitars and a touch of reverb.

In advance of his performance with Lage at Club Metetrone on Wednesday, December 20, *Seven Days* spoke with Cline by phone from Baltimore, following his gig with free-jazz composer Ron Goldberg.

**SEVEN DAYS:** You only recently met Julian, correct?

**NELS CLINE:** That's true. I met him a few months ago through [jazz guitarist] Jim Hall, who is one of my favorite guitarists. I didn't know anything about Julian, mostly just overhearing people talking about him. "Oh, he's marvelous. He's only 24!" So I YouTube'd him, and that was pretty mind-blowing. But then I met him, and he's such a lovely guy. His playing is jaw-dropping, but I realized he has an interest in playing unprepared music as well as his ability to play all kinds of organized music. So we started playing together.

**SD:** I imagine that means you guys are feeling each other out in the moment, onstage. How is that musical relationship evolving?

**NC:** Well, we've actually only played three gigs, all in New York. And this tour doesn't start for another week. So it will be interesting to see what happens after multiple exposures. There's a lot of improvising, but I have to say, without sounding overly hyperbolic... actually, that's redundant, isn't it?

**SD:** A little.

**NC:** Anything the spontaneity was so immediate that it feels like we've been playing together for a long time like we are still looking out a body of work to use as part of our improvised world. Julian, who writes music every day, is starting to bring in what I call "segues," short pieces that are open-ended enough to be bridges to different kinds of improvising or, in some cases, to steal



Nels Cline







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# music

CLUB DATES

NO. NOT AVAILABLE. ALL ARE LIVE.



TUE. 10 (J) KILLSWITCH ENGE (METAL)

## Second Time Around

Massachusetts-based metal studs **KILLSWITCH ENGE** parted ways with original lead singer Jesse Leach. The band engaged replacements with a new front man, **Blizzard Jones**. But many longtime fans still pine for Leach's guitar-rock style. To the delight of those fans, Leach is back in the fold, replacing Jones, and Kott is reported to be in vintage metalcore form. Catch the band at the Higher Ground Refractor this Tuesday, December 16, with **Shadowz Fall** and **Acacia**.

## WED. 12

### burlington area

**GRANBY B-S** Karaoke 5 p.m., Free

**HAUPFURGE** South Hingham (Singer: Christopher) 8 p.m., Free. **SOCK MARGIE** (Singer: Christopher) 8 p.m., Free. **ARMED AND DANGEROUS** (Singer: Christopher) 8 p.m., Free.

**JP SPIN** Karaoke with Music 10 p.m., Free

**LEVITY** Pub & Games Night 8 p.m., Free

**HANNAH PIZZA & PUB** Open Mic with Andy Luger 10 p.m., Free

**MURPHY BRASS** Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser 8 p.m. (Benefit: Cystic Fibrosis) 8 p.m., Free/\$5

**WEDNES** 8 p.m. Karaoke and DJ 8 p.m., Free/\$5

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**WEDNES** 8 p.m. Karaoke and DJ 8 p.m., Free/\$5

pub, Free. DJ 8 p.m. (Singer: Christopher) 8 p.m., Free

**SONNY PINEAPPLE** South Hingham (Singer: Christopher) 8 p.m., Free

**THE BONES RESTAURANT AND BAR** (Singer: Christopher) 8 p.m., Free

**THE BONES RESTAURANT AND BAR** (Singer: Christopher) 8 p.m., Free

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**HOBBS & PACE** Pub & Games Night 8 p.m., Free

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**HOBBS & PACE** Pub & Games Night 8 p.m., Free

**RADIOHEAD** Kater Tread 8 p.m., Free

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## regional

## THU. 13

### burlington area

**CLUB HOTT** Karaoke 8 p.m., Free

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**CLUB HOTT** Karaoke 8 p.m., Free

**CLUB HOTT** Karaoke 8 p.m., Free

**RED DEVILS** Karaoke 8 p.m., Free

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**SOUNDbites**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

years about **hunks** from even earlier ones of VT men — the **women** overdo this year, for example. A common thread that emerges is that every generation thinks that **it** was the best. And, as perusing CIC's Facebook page reveals, **we** the they're all right. In any event, if you're curious about local music history, it's a good place to start.

(Here's another with I hope the columnists please will grant.  
One of the coolest things GQ ever did was release a pair of  
complaints called Burlington from Burlington, in which  
local boys covered other local boys. The PANTS cover:  
**PANTS: MICHIGAN** covered the Tants **BABAROSA** covered **KITT**  
**STEIN BLAKE** covered **SLEAZ**. It was awesome, and it's an idea  
whose time has come again. I want to hear **MAY-MADE** cover  
**LINDSEY'S CHICKEN**. I want to hear **Leopoldine** Crilkins cover  
**BLISS BUTTER** or maybe **PHARMASIA**. How about **BABAKA** covering  
**NASA VENTURA** or **WUHAN SPEED-LOVERING** **HARFUSE SHUTS?** Get on it,  
people. Here's one more.)

## BiteTorrent

There's actually another notable holiday show this weekend, as the good folks from *Norras Amars* present a holiday-themed *Straw Hat* at the *Hotel de Ville* at Club Monocrome this Sunday, December 16. Month-to-month **RETAILING** headlines the gingerbread house party — come on, that one was pretty good — along with Québec City's **AMIGOS**, and local ones like **CHOCOLATE, TWO STEPS, THE SHIRT and CAPSULE**. The local has been heads from **HEADPHONES** and **HEADPHONES** look things off with an early evening reception, which I'm pretty sure refers to actual aggro and not the name of the latest EDM genre trend.

Butland doesn't get a lot of attention in these music pages outside of **SPIT THUNDER** (2008). But this Sunday, December 1st, is a show of East Vegas comes to Huntington in the form of garage punk outfit **SAVING PRIVATE RYAN**. I've never seen them live, but in perusing their Bandcamp page, I'm guessing they'll find kindred spirits in the likes of local acts such as the **THEES** and the **SAVING**. It's gritty, grungy stuff – just the thing for a chilly night at the Beacon in December.

Regular readers know I have something of a pet peeve.



when it comes to funk bands, including the word "funk" in their name. Well, we have a new contender in the most egregious use of the pun: **WU FUNK DU**. They'll be at Radio Bess on Saturday, December 15, after which you'll imagine **ARCHIBUTHER** and **FLUNKWORM** will challenge the band to a **Jazz vs. Black-syle band** on North Wausau Avenue.

Last but not least, I've just been notified that **ROCK KUMA** is coming to the 2012 Champlain Valley Fair. The country superstar last appeared in VT on the same fairgrounds stage in 2006. I'd be lying if I said none part of me – likely my freedom bane – wasn't excited about this development. Tickets are on sale this Friday, December 14.



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## music

### CLUB DATES

ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL

#### THU 12/16/03

##### northern

**AGE LADDER** (new band/Melrose) 7:30pm, Danvers  
**BROWN SHIRTED BEETES** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers  
**ROCK & PLACE** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers  
**SHANE & THE BROTHERS** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers  
**SHANE & THE BROTHERS** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers

##### regional

**MONOCLO** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers  
**MONOCLO** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers  
**OLIVE BRUIST** 8:00pm, Danvers  
**THE CAFE & THE CAFE** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers  
**THE CAFE & THE CAFE** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers

## FRI.14

### burlesque arena

**BUCKETHEAD** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers  
**BANANA RINGS CAFE & PUB** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers  
**CLUB MONOCLO** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers  
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##### central

**BUCKETHEAD** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers  
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**TURFED MUSIC HALL** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers

##### champaign valley

**31 MARK** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers  
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##### northern

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##### regional

**BUCKETHEAD** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers  
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## SAT.15

### burlesque arena

**BUCKETHEAD** (new band) 8:00pm, Danvers  
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## Out of the Loop

alone as compositions. It's growing rapidly, but it's still in its early phase.

**SD:** You're well known for using a crazy amount of effects and pedals. But this is just a guitar plugged into an amp, with no effects. Why strip down so much?

**NC:** Without getting overly autobiographical, when I met Julian I was at an aesthetic business with myself. I was really not digging my own playing. I was tired. So there was something reassuring about when Julian and I have been doing this one, he looked up and I don't know if you're aware of how he plays, but he's quite a virtuoso. It's kind of frightening in terms of what he is able to play, but also how musical it is. So I wanted to go more toward his world rather than the other way around. I wanted to be very direct and just about the notes.

When playing electric guitars, but we'll still use the guitars, because we're playing synth-top, hollow-bodied electrics. Without my wiggle on the whammy bar, or the distortion and loops or whatever, we get to this kind of chamber-music sound. It's very intimate, and there are a lot of notes being played. I think it should be meticulously pleasing.

**SD:** Does that approach limit the choices you can make?

**NC:** There are fewer choices, as far as timbre and texture and volume, but then you can get right to certain things about the actual notes. It's refreshing. Now I'm not of my machine. It's pleasing to my ear. Like many days, in an even way it's about some kind of shared world.

**SD:** Do think that world will expand after this tour: maybe into more effects-laden composition?

**NC:** I think it's very likely that Julian and I will do some other type of technologically marvelous thing with the guitar. But at this point I think we really just want it to be sort of classic like Joe Pass and Herb Ellis. It's kind of a classic thing to do with so-called jazz. So we're doing a slightly jazz-tinged chamber-music aesthetic. It has elements of live improvisation that you hear from people like Jimmy Duffin. It's organized in a sense that we kind of play compositionally.

LIKE MANY DUOS,  
IN ITS OWN WAY  
IT'S ABOUT  
SOME KIND OF  
SHARED WORLD.

**SD:** You spent the first 20-plus years of your career in relative obscurity, outside of maybe hard-core guitar-heads. But then Wilco raised your profile almost overnight. Was that a strange experience?

**NC:** No. It's pretty cool. Actually I wasn't trying to become super well known, but I wasn't trying to live in obscurity either. But other than the fact that I'm not broke anymore, I live my life the same way as I did. I don't get up in the morning and check the Internet to see how many millions of people think I'm really cool this week. I have the same aspirations I've always had.

It's cool because it allows me to walk in those different worlds, which is always what I was trying to do before. Just playing a whole bunch of music with people I like. And there's still what I do, only now one of those projects happens to be a band that a lot of people care about and follow.

The other thing about Wilco is that we're just several dudes, and we're friends. We're kind of nerds. It's not like I jumped into some rock-and-roll lifestyle.

It's like-minded individuals finding each other. And there's like a lot of things I've gotten to do musically, and continue to do, like playing with Julian or meeting the women who turned out to be my wife but who I played music with, Yoko Honda. Or all the people I play with in New York or my friends in California. It's all kind of just more to the improving life has sort of changed up, like the rock-and-roll life.

The fact that people know more about me hopefully makes it possible to draw a few extra people to these improvised-music gigs, like playing with Ben Goldberg last night. Maybe a few Wilco fans came out and maybe didn't even like it. But at least they gave it a shot, because they probably wouldn't know about that band otherwise. So that makes me happy. But it's not like it's super packed, because there's fancy boy on the guitar over there. ☺

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# REVIEW *this*

## Problem Child, Restless When Idle

(SELF-RELEASED DIGITAL DOWNLOAD)

Kids these days.

As a product of Burlington's punk and hardcore scene in the 1990s, I have a soft spot for the aggressive willingness emanating from the local teenage swinehead (OBS, I never really looked the part, but I wore out my Juicy Nat and 12 Tunes Over tapeback in the day). But of all the local scenes, that of high school punk and hardcore is among the most difficult to follow. For one thing, it's a microcosm dominated by bars and nightclubs, all ages gigs are relatively few and far between. When your mom has to drag you off to a show, that's an issue. Further complicating the matter is the casual nature of the music in general. Its outdoor nature, made for and by students, friends and geeks who typically want to avoid attracting attention, lest they be ostracized in a locker or given a swirlie. Miss, high school swine

There is a third and perhaps more



critical issue at play here. Namely, most high school bands are borderline unlistenable. Generally, this is through no fault of their own. Like a few chemistry lessons to well, young musicians just need time and practice to find their footing. But there are exceptions to every rule. And currently, a Williams punk trio named Problem Child is one of them.

The band's debut full-length, *Restless When Idle*, plays like a throwback to this reviewer's own teenage days spent getting trampled at 243 Main. Ideal they existed in 1995, Problem Child likely would have been among my favorite local bands; their songs included on mixtapes alongside Green Day, Operation Ivy and the Queers. Even

now, they're quickly achieving regular rotation in my grown-up iTunes library.

It's true of most art, but the best punk music is an distillation of raw emotion. Part of the reason the genre has long resonated with youth culture is its presentation of an unfiltered angst. Punk is simple, direct and aggressive, rarely bogged down with precious metaphors or overly artistic exposition. In that respect, Problem Child represent all that is good about punk rock. From guitarist and front man Kevin Kingdahl's filthy Joe Armstrong-esque heavy metal to Kevin Wilkinson's romping bass and Matt Dedrick's punishing drum work, the band drives the rugged essence of punk attitude.

Problem Child play an all ages show at the Madley House in Wisconsin on Thursday, December 18, with the Murder Weapon, Teenage Weapon and the Queers. *Restless When Idle* is available for free download at [problemchildvt.bandcamp.com](http://problemchildvt.bandcamp.com).

DAN HOLLES

## Tommy Bobcat, No Tails

(SELF-RELEASED DIGITAL DOWNLOAD)

When last we left Tommy Bobcat, the Godwin for the Future Internet had released a touching tribute to his late mother, *For Kitten*. Composed of instrumental music it's a decidedly ethereal and experimental release, the album was a wordless meditation on life, death and grief that earned significant emotional weight as a bed of shifting soundscapes. It was an unusual, and unusually profound work.

On his latest effort, *No Tails*, Bobcat again presents a nuanced collection of sprawling sounds and ideas. It is not music in both name and usage. Unlike *For Kitten*, however, the album lacks an identifiable thematic thread. The result is a hodgepodge of abstract concepts that, while often fascinating individually, lack cohesion and make for a jarring listen all together.

The record begins with the sounds of a ticking clock and a pulsing heartbeat, juxtaposed with a guitar arpeggio over a swirl of synth textures. These melodic elements then de-construct, modulating



downward before settling in a new key where they meet a droning, metal guitar riff and a stiff backbeat. Just the ingredients for that unconventional instrumental trio at hand to wear indulgent, finger-tapping guitar work that subsequently breaks off into a dreamy journey section and finishes with more shuddering guitar. "Mister Panda" is a self-referential piece that could either be an earnest instrumental experiment or an ironic genre parody, but it doesn't really succeed in either case.

"Miss Pigment" follows and offers a sort of futuristic Ziggy Stardust homage, complete with agitated and unhinged low-toned vocal moanings. It's much more interesting and better executed than its peer deserves.

Next, "So Good" features a duet with local Night singer Christine Mathews. Over a heavy timbale progression, the duo explores the various of creamy, dreamy textures, with Mathews coming in a girlish — and lovely — way. — Berry loop noise, while Bobcat responds in a low and easily creepy bassy profanity.

The album continues in increasingly a B-list fashion, from the electro-rock jitter of "Geographic Tongue" to the twisted "Beyond Jupiter" to the eddy touching ballad "My Kitten" and deconstructed late-funk of "Intellectual Griffin." It's an odd workout just to keep up. But there are moments — the absurdist punk anthem "Our Tercio," for instance — when the effort is worth it.

*No Tails* is not an easily accessible work by any means. But send the chaos, there is some sort of queer ingenuity at the core of Tommy Bobcat's ponderous record.

*No Tails* by Tommy Bobcat is available at [tommybobcat.bandcamp.com](http://tommybobcat.bandcamp.com). Tommy Bobcat plays Vector's on Tuesday, December 18.

DAN HOLLES

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# The Beauty of Chance

John Anderson at BCA Center

BY KEVIN J. KELLEY

**J**ohn Anderson must have used the part of the RAT whose college-bound art majors are asked to project geometric shapes into the third dimension. The veteran Vermont artist and architect has the ability — attempting to math kluge — to transform spatial concepts into physical constructions.

Evidence of this aptitude fills the BCA Center on Burlington's Church Street Marketplace where "John Anderson Drawings 2006-2012 Constructed Concepts" is on display. Anderson is happy to elaborate on his ideas and methods. "I love telling the backstory," he says while lending a separate no. 10 eraser of the show, which offers visitors cellphone access to Anderson's descriptions of several of his paper-based pieces.

But it isn't necessary to know about his thinking and his processes to appreciate his art, Anderson insists. And that's good thing, because some viewers will become befuddled once he starts rapping about quantum mechanics, black-hole theory and Planck units.

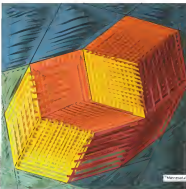
"I'm a science nut," Anderson admits. "You take the most far-out, theoretical, mind-blowing stuff I read about it every day."

His artistic applications of obscure notions — which Anderson admits "can twist my brain into knots" — are concentrated in the rear room of the gallery in a section of the show called "Chance Drawings." The large-scale works hanging here give visual expression to the physics principle that, as he explains, "things happen in accordance with probability rather than being deterministic." The human brain, he adds, "works on the basis of probability."

Anderson rolled dice, flipped coins and drew flexible tiles at random to ensure the marks he made on paper would reflect the workings of chance. The resulting drawings, which combine geometric forms with stippling and shading, convey, he says, "a symbolic language generated by chance and applied by chance."

But don't worry. Most of the show, like the artist himself, is pleasantly approachable. Anderson doesn't seek to show off his art, his architecture or his conviction. He aims for pleasing effects, verbally and visually.

And a mass audience has indeed come to salute Anderson's creation over the



## ARCHITECTURE INFORMS MY ART; ART INFORMS MY ARCHITECTURE.

JOHN ANDERSON

course of his 40-year Vermont career, during which he designed such attention-getting spaces as Wino Street Landing at Wino Building and the Fine Street headquarters of Lake Champlain Chocolates. In a next lot of doodleplanning, Anderson also drew the blueprint for the BCA Center (originally called Pinthouse Gallery), which was crowded beyond capacity last show's opening on November 30.

Still wavy-haired and beaky at age 70, Anderson now mainly works as a consultant. His job is to explain "the big picture" of a planned commercial space, which then gets filled in by workday architects focused on "the hardware elements."

Anderson now devotes most of his time to making art in his North Ferrisburgh studio and home. "I'm finally and fully out of the closet," Anderson quips, and notes that he considers himself an artist whose work includes architecture. Or, as he adds while pointing to the 130 pieces that make up the show's "paper studies" section, "architecture informs my art, art informs my architecture."

For all his fascination with the mechanics of chance, Anderson's drawings are the products of rigid rules he sets for himself. "It feels good to have a set of simple but unvarying rules that structure or limit the freedom of expression," he notes in one of the epigrams printed on a wall at BCA. "As an architect, I always had to work with a lot of rules and restrictions."

In the small-scale studies that hang side by side and row by row, Anderson's smart system requires that one 11-by-23-inch piece of white paper be flat and largely unshaded against the wall with a second, heavily worked piece placed to it. The protruding sheet may have been crumpled, cut, folded, rolled or even chewed, and sometimes rubbed with graphite. Each of the 120 studies is uniquely associated in a three-dimensional drawing that, at some instances, produces optical illusions.

By now it's one of the decade's influences on a body of work that may appear radically original. Such influence at 34°C, Kachel seems to have left a distinct impression. And Anderson takes care to acknowledge its interest in the expressions in art-making by chance that American abstract painter Ellsworth Kelly can attest in conjunction with choreographer Merce Cunningham and composer John Cage.

It's easy to become fixated on Anderson's paper studies, but the real show stopper at BCA is the "Gossamer" grouping in which Anderson enhances his signature of pulpy pop-outs with complementary colors. That's some intricate piece,







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art



**'Inspired by Gruppe'** In the early 1940s, Ansel A. Gruppe, who would become one of Vermont's most renowned landscape painters, was a prominent member of the decade-old Northern Vermont Artist Association. Gruppe lived most of the year in Gloucester, Mass., but liked to spend the late fall and early spring in Jeffersonville, Vt. Unlike other painters who focus on the Green Mountains state's fiery foliage and verdant fields, Gruppe was drawn to the grandness of a landscape in New England. Current members of the NVAA are showing their work in a show called "Inspired by Gruppe" at the late painter's eponymous gallery in Jericho through December 22. Patrons: "Porter Farm, Cambridge, Vt." by Janet Bonney.

BURLINGTON AREA ART SHOWS 4th-11th

**TELEVISION THEATRE** New paintings by Andrew Nathan, Susan Bulfinch, Athena Schmitt, Bill Brimbleton and Betty Bull, plus poetry by Tomie Burnett. August 1st through December 31st. Tuesday 10am-12pm. A group offering. Tickets \$10. Includes career videos of husband and family. Through January 21 at Jackson Jones Gallery in Burlington. 802-345-1122.

**ERIN LARSEN TUBAS & BRYAN A. BROWN** Artists in progress. "Tubas of the Earth" and "Brown of the Earth" photographs of local musicians. Through December 31st at Jericho. 802-324-4171.

**ANDY GARRITY** "Memory Works" paintings by the Vermont artist. Through December 21 at East Shore. Reception/Opening Reception in Burlington. 802-458-4388.

**JAMIE KIRBY** Two new paintings by the English artist presented alongside those of Ansel Adams. Kirby's paintings show light and shadow, and Kirby is interested in the use of color. Through December 21 at the Vermont Gallery in Burlington. 802-345-1122.

**DOE WILSON** "The Love of Light" photographs. Through December 31st at Jericho. 802-324-4171.

**JOHN J. HARRIS** "A New From the Past" photographs and audio stories from the Vermont State Archives. Through December 31st at Jericho. 802-324-4171.

**JOHN HARRIS** Art by the Vermont artist. Through December 31st at Jericho. 802-324-4171.

**EDWARD ALONSO** "Home" photographs and paintings. Through December 31st at Jericho. 802-324-4171.

**ELIZABETH LEWIS** "Vermont Fragments" mixed media works incorporating fragments of Vermont history. Through December 31st at Jericho. 802-324-4171.

**GALLERY GRAND OPENING** Artists and artists. Through December 31st at Jericho. 802-324-4171.

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## Vermont Artisans Craft Gallery

Have you even thought about the gifts you still need to buy? Get yourself into the giving spirit, stat. One place to start is the Vermont Artisans Craft Gallery in the Burlington Town Center. There, in a pop-up gallery geared toward the holidays, you can find everything from watercolors to outdoor jewelry to specialty foods, seven days a week through December 31. Talk about buying local! Featured artists by Woodstock-based Blue Star Vermont.

**NEARLY VERMONT STRINGS** Artworks created in response to Tropical Storm Irene. First exhibited in Bennington, environmentalist the occasion is now-year anniversary. Through December 31 at Bennington's Office Gallery at Montpelier. Info: 818-0948

### champlain valley

**54TH ANNUAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION AND EXHIBIT** Score! Displays that reflect this year's theme: Forest and Coastal. Through December 15 at the main building and Central Through December 15 at the main building. Info: 538-4101

**2012 WINTER ALL AMERICAN SNOW** An annual exhibit of winter art. Through January 12 at Chaffin Art Center in Rutland. Info: 729-0335

**WATERS OF THE FOREST** Artworks created in response to Tropical Storm Irene. First exhibited in Bennington, environmentalist the occasion is now-year anniversary. Through December 31 at Bennington's Office Gallery at Montpelier. Info: 818-0948

**CAROLYN SHAFER** Works created by layering individual images or photos onto one another to create subtle combinations of color, pattern, and line. Through April 1 at Sande House. Info: 455-4075

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY SHOWS D PAGE

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On Monday evening, December 3, Aiden Lucas Stubbs was born. His lovely mama Tara worked at the hospital all day, thought perhaps she was in labor in the afternoon so her husband Lucas took her home – for just a few hours – and they then returned – for just a few hours – before their sweet, beautiful son was born. Fabulous indeed. Mom, Dad and baby. Aiden weighs 7lb/9oz and is about 20 inches long. He looks a lot like his daddy. He was sleeping comfortably in his mother's arms when we came by so there is no evidence of such, but we're hoping his smile is as beautiful as his mom's. He's mighty cute so chances are... The happy Stubbs family lives in Barre. We wish them all the best – with continued ease.



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## art



**'Labor of Love'** For its 25th anniversary this year, Vermont Works for Women set out to celebrate the spirit of its founders. So it paired up with the Vermont Public Life Center to create "Labor of Love," a photographic exhibit featuring 29 women – chosen from 150 nominated statewide – who do powerful work. They are dairy farmers, police officers, librarians, tattoo artists and doctors. MaryClare Carroll, who photographed them, writes, "My goal was always to make the portrait short and to bring out her passion, not just for her work, but for life as well." You'll find these women at the Windsor Wellness Center & Gallery through December 18. Portraits: Meredith Moore, Martin of Shady Lady Tattoo Parlour.



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## ART SHOWS

## CHAMPLAIN VALLEY SHOWS #101

## CONTEMPORARY JEWELS AND OFFENSE

Works by two artists of identical names presented in honor of the Jeweleans (a recent visit to Hamilton). Through January 31 at Davis Family Library/Hamilton. Info: 443-3332

## DEB BOWNE

Notably minimalist "watercolors" by the Hamilton Gallery Trust. Through December 31 at Cayuga Community Library. Info: 442-2876

## FIFTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY SNOW

An art and craft show. Through December 31 at Hamilton Community Library. Info: 392-3001

## EMERSONED HOME OWNERS

Displays for a creative interpretation for people's choice. Through December 10 at Chaffee Art Center. Info: 795-9158

## IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASONS

Through January 15 at Hamilton Community Library. Info: 443-4496

## PETER WOLF

Country life. A look at Wolf's 30-year retrospective of the Jewish photographer's work, from black and white studio photos to a portrait of Celine Dion. Through December 30 at the Hamilton Community Library. Info: 434-2220

## SMALL WORLD SHOW

Photographs and mixed media combinations—all under 14 square inches and \$200 or less. Through December 31 at the Hamilton Community Library. Info: 434-2220

## THANKS, THANKS, THANKS

An art show. Through January 15 at Hamilton Community Library. Info: 443-4496

## NORTHERN

Through January 15 at Hamilton Community Library. Info: 443-4496

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# movies

## The Central Park Five★★★★

**D**irected by Alex Hane, his daughter Sarah Hane, and her husband, David McIlhenny, this documentary (streaming at the time) tells the shocking story of five black teenagers framed for a shakedown. And as you watch the story unfold, one of the things you may find most shocking is the revelation that, in a very real sense, you're part of it.

If you're like me, you vividly recall the headlines and television news reports covering the Central Park jogger in the early hours of April 19, 1984: a 16-year-old white woman who'd been jogging in the park was found with her skull crushed, her hands bound and her clothes bloodstained and scattered. The media didn't release her name at the time, but it had no qualms about identifying the black and Latino young men charged with the crime.

Within a matter of days, Austin McBryde, Kevin Richardson, Raymond Santana, Walter Wise and Yusef Salaam had confessed, and New York Mayor Ed Koch, who had declared the week "the crime of the century," was signing the NYPD's press. All five were eventually convicted and sentenced

to stretches ranging from seven to 15 years. And if you're like me, that's the way you remember the story ending.

Which is only one of many injustices outlined by the Central Park Five. A lot more. But what the media failed to cover in its occasionally self-righteous news coverage was their complete exoneration by an appeals court in 2002 after a *new* report confirmed the attack and if not the five had served every day of their sentences. A mass exodus of justice on this scale would have been tragic had it resulted from a honest mistake—but, as the memorably overwrought scenes make clear, history had little to do with it. What our case to the five young men was nothing short of a crime in its own right.

Based on part of Sarah Hane's 2007 book *The Central Park Five: A Chronicle of a City Fractured*, the film offers a spellbinding re-enactment version of that dark night. We learn that the police picked up the young men because they'd been part of a group of 30 or so, some of whom had caused trouble in the park. They were in custody before the rape and beating of the jogger were reported and were about to be released when the news



**NO DISCREPANCY**  
Hane documents the case of New York men. Here's how they pay for a crime police knew they didn't know they

came in. The five, now in their thirties, recall how officers lined them up, split them up and pressured them to incriminate one another (deprived of sleep, food and water [so no mention legal representation]) for more than 30 hours, each eventually confessed on camera, ending on details of the crime provided by their handlers.

Shocking on one front, the police department or prosecutor's office agreed to be interviewed for the film. Among the movie's talking heads, however, is a psychologist who explains, "The goal is to break the suspect down to helplessness and despair. Once the confession is obtained, it stamps everything else."

Hane and co. piece together a picture of a department whose employees are willing to extract coerced admissions at any cost.

In one of the film's most powerful sequences, we see the actual radio recordings. Beyond revealing that these men, for all practical purposes, acted and confessed

children, the recordings show clearly that their confessions were forced. The accounts contradicted one another and leave out key facts. Then there's the issue that not one of the five actually admits to committing the crime.

"I wish I had been more skeptical as a journalist," admits New York Times columnist Kim Lerner. "A lot of people didn't do their jobs—reporters, police, prosecutors, defense attorneys. Teachers, judges and justices were not part of it." At last, not until now. The young men find a lawsuit against the city and the police department, which has implicated in the courts for almost 10 years. Maybe the wheels of justice will turn a little faster now that this reputation stands put the five back in the spotlight.

**RICK KISINAK**

## REVIEWS

## Compliance★★★★ The Loneliest Planet★★★★

**S**ome cracking up on Thanksgiving movie releases? Waiting for *The Lobster*? The studios haven't given you many alternatives this week, or so much to reserve as I thought I'd take this time to review two offbeat little movies that are sure to arrest your attention.

That's right: two discussions of topics such as gender, marriage and sexual response. Conversations that might lead to yelling—or to revelations about yourself and your loved ones.

Take the scenario at the heart of Craig Zobel's indie drama *Compliance* (streaming on December 23 7 p.m. at Blue Street Land, via Performance Arts Center in Burlington, via State of the Arts, the same, and on DVD January 11). If you received a call at work from someone who identified himself as a police officer, told you your employee was a suspected thief, and attempted you to strip-search her, what would you do?

When another situation played out in real life at the 70-foot-fish restaurant around the city, the manager's actions as she manages complied with the officer's requests. Inspired by the most notorious of these incidents, which

led to trauma, a broken engagement and lawsuits, *Compliance* is not easy to watch.

Zobel dramatizes the events in graphic detail, an approach some viewers have found explosive. But these powerful performances—from Anna Derr as the stressed-out, well-meaning manager, Jessica Walter as the manager's employee, and Pat Healy in the roller—keep the film and forced in believable human emotions.

The better as worse, *Compliance* is the only film of 2013 that I don't actively recommend (it's)—a mandate neither who doesn't need to watch the victims is scolded for film—and choosing for the person who becomes its hero by default. Does viewers will angrily insist that no harm was to be gained, become anyone of remarkable intelligence would have simply...and no let us we be sure?

**L**et's say it's tempting to think that, faced with a potentially deadly threat, you'd make the selfish emergency choice without having to think it out. But would you?

I can't say more to those asking the only real action in *The Loneliest Planet* (opening



**BE IT THE WAY**  
A backpacking trip takes an unsettling turn in Julia Lorenz's *The Loneliest Planet*

at the Dorcy Theater in Montpelier) the sex and danger from sex-to-director Julia Lorenz (*Day Night Day Night*). This minimalist film about an engaged couple (Paul Giamatti and Naomi Watts) traveling the Colorado Mountains with a Georgian guide (Juliana Gagliardi) has little plot or spoken dialogue some viewers may find it an endurance test. Others may be attracted by the rich metaphors of the landscape and fascinated by the deeper use of the characters' body language as their relationships undergo striking transformations. Furthermore, whose experience here serves as a metaphor for these changes, is an exercise to watch.

While *The Loneliest Planet* is a self-conscious art film, with long, wide shots reminiscent of *Wesley Crake*, it's also true to the experience of being a stranger in a strange land. Anyone who's had occasion to use *Loneliest Planet* guides is likely to recognize some of the awkward, awkward situations encountered by a culture clash or a language barrier. But applying the same language doesn't prevent the overall calm from real, using as they approach the end of their journey that even people in love will always be, in some sense, alone.

**MARGOT HARRISON**

















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## Curses, Foiled Again

Three men stole items from a property in Manchester, N.H., after advertising them as giveaways on Craigslist even before they were stolen. Police believe the posts were meant to provide an alibi, so they could claim they were merely responding to the advertised offer of free items. "It is very bold, especially when you put that out on the internet, and others are viewing it at the same time, probably going to show up as well," Detective Stephen Kessler said. After determining the property owner had no intention of giving the items away, police asked out the address and pinned the suspects on the set. (Manchester's WMUR-TV)

## What Could Go Wrong?

U.S. military drone missions are crisscrossing with increasing frequency, including at civilian airports. Air Force investigators blamed the mishaps on pilot error, mechanical failure, software glitches and poor coordination with civilian air traffic controllers. U.S. drone crews in Dykeburg, where five Predator drones have crashed, singled out Dykeburg as a factor. Complaining they speak poor English, are "short tempered" and are uncomfortable having Predators in their airspace. (The Washington Post)

## Inflated Statistics

The surge in popularity of affordable bounce houses in the United States corresponds to a rash of related accidents. A nationwide study published in the journal *Pediatrics* found fewer than 1,000 reported bounce-house injuries in 2009 but nearly 11,000 in 2010. That averages 32 children a day being treated in emergency rooms for broken bones, sprains, cuts and concussions resulting from children falling inside or as a result of bounce houses, or colliding with each other. More than one-third of the injured children are 3 and younger. (Associated Press)

## Medical Emergencies

After frequent attacks on doctors, Indian hospitals started hiring well-built nightclubs bouncers, bodyguards and waitresses to keep order in emergency rooms and labor rooms. Patients and friends often become agitated and go on rampage after patients die or are suspected of having been mistreated. Thousands of attacks occur in Indian hospitals every year, according to Dr. Narendra Sarda of the Indian Medical Association, who noted hospitals feel especially chafed at triage-unit hospitals, explaining, "They expect their patient to live because that's what they paid for." (Associated Press)

## Deal Junkies

Nearly three of every four shoppers accustomed to discounted prices at retail stores said they wouldn't buy a given item without a discount of at least 50 percent. A survey by the consumer research firm America's Research Group found that deep discounts eat away at already slim profits, but retailers have only themselves to blame, because discounting during a down economy has conditioned shoppers to expect it. Everyday pricing "takes some fun out of shopping," Tracy Unbehauen, who studies consumer behavior for Amazon, explained. "Stores are just like heroin." (Associated Press)

## Not Here to Talk About the Past

Physician turned tea-partyer Rep. Scott DeLafante, R-Tenn., earlier was a reflection to a second term as an elected anti-abortion, family values candidate, despite testifying at his divorce trial that he had "sexual relationships with at least two patients, three coworkers and a drug representative" while he was married. He also admitted supporting his ex-wife's decision to have two abortions before they wed and reportedly urged one of the patients he had sex with to get an abortion. DeLafante has consistently supported anti-abortion legislation, seating the National Right to Life's coveted 100 percent rating. (Chattanooga Times Free Press)

## Never Happened

Sheriff's deputies who stopped Patrick Townsend, 33, for driving without a seatbelt in Polk County, Fla., found 12 4-pronged metal shrapnel pieces in his lower shorts. They said Townsend confessed to trafficking in the drug, boasting that he usually dealt in kilos, not grams. Detective Justin Starr recorded the confession, but when he stopped writing and left the digital recorder on a desk, Townsend grabbed it, hid it in his armpit, asked to use the bathroom and flushed the recorder down the toilet. When he returned and saw Starr looking for the recorder, he reportedly told him, "F\*ckin' up on your job, home" (Galesherie's the Ledger)

## Onward, Omnivores

After Edward Archibald, 33, swallowed dozens of live cockroaches and worms to win a pet shop in Deerfield Beach, Fla., he dropped dead. The Broward County medical examiner ruled Archibald choked to death after his tongue became obstructed with "retroposed body parts." (Associated Press)





For the last ten decades of his life, Pablo Picasso created art that was adventurous and experimental. He didn't invent abstract painting, but he was instrumental in popularizing it. And, yet in his early years he was a master of realism and had an impressive ability to capture the nuances of human anatomy. Considering Picasso's evolution, travel writer Rick Steves says that when he was young, "he learned the rules in order to later so skillfully break

I suspect you're in a phase of your own development when you could profit from doing the same thing. So I ask you, Sagittarius: What are the rules that are so ripe for you to bend and twist as you graduate to a more mature level of self-expression?

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Can you manage to be both highly alert and deeply relaxed? Could you be wildly curious and yet also seriously reflective? Can you imagine yourself being alone hungry to crack life secrets but also at peace with your destiny exactly the way it is? If you can honestly answer yes to those questions, you'll get a lot of help in the coming week. The universe may even seem to be conspiring to educate you and feed you. You'll receive a steady flow of clues about how to get closer to being your dreamer.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20): In the coming week you would be wise to deal with your vulnerability, your fallibility and your own personal state of the world's darkness. If you refuse to do this, either out of laziness or fear, I'm afraid that you will encounter a situation that needs to be confronted. You may end up colonizing your interests, clinging to false pride, and running away from challenges that couldn't sit you, weaker and stronger. Don't do that, Taurus! Be brave, be willing to be weak, difficult to see. There will be light, reward if you choose to explore the weaker and less mature parts of your personality.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) In the 1988 Olympics, Bob Beamon broke the world record for the long jump. His jump was so far beyond the previous mark that the optical device designed to calculate it didn't work. Officials had to resort to an old-fashioned measuring tape. After that, the word "Beamonvise" came to signify a feat that vastly outstripped all previous efforts. According to my analyses, you Geminis will have an excellent chance to be Beamonvise, in 2015. I expect that you will at least surpass your own past levels of accomplishment, if you have not yet launched your second, yet still active, career.

**CANCER** (June 27/July 24) The first area that created the southern U.S. link in the cancer belt was the tobacco industry, which has been killing the nation's people ever since. Two communities have decided to make the best of the situation: Atlanta, Georgia, and Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Both the Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium and the Winston-Salem Tobacco Warehouse have been closed down. The Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium has been closed down. The Winston-Salem Tobacco Warehouse has been closed down. The Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium has been closed down. The Winston-Salem Tobacco Warehouse has been closed down.

**LEO** (July 22-Aug. 22) While reading Willem Kibbenig's book *The Nature of Sexuality* I learned about the oldest known sentence written in ancient Greek. It was inscribed on a wine jug that dates back to 740 B.C. Translated

into English it says, "who row of all stone  
ers sports most playfully?" Another possible  
translation is "Which of these dancers plays  
most delicately?" I'd love to make something  
like that for your motto in the coming week.  
Let's. The time might for you to do more danc-  
ing and playing and sportingly (as it is) — and  
to seek out companions who like to help you  
achieve modest bending levels of those near  
spinal axes.

**VIRGO** Sun: 23 Sept. 20; in the travels of Counting Boy Bill Murray plays a man who gets tripped in a time loop. Over and over again he experiences the same 24 hours. When he wakes up each morning it's still February 2. All first-of-the-months are just pushing him to the verge of suicide. But eventually he decides to live as best he would. He becomes a street-gang boss and finds "punk-queer" friends good death and saves people lives. He even learns what he needs to do to win the heart of the woman he desires. This transformation turns out to be his key to going back to freedom. Just the end of the film he escapes to February 3. A complete opposite reality than before for you, Virgo. Relative to your breaking down, you're about to slip away from it, but you've been in Generosity many times already.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Events in the immediate future may have no resemblance to reading a boring book that's packed with highly useful information. You might feel that there's a distinction between the theoretical stuff you need to gather and the no-hum angle in which they are offered. No OK to be a bit disgruntled by this problem as long as you promise to remain alert for the partially disguised goodies. Don't let today's pin the needle of the unperceptible lesson.

**SCORPIO** [Oct. 23-Nov. 21] "Instinct tells us that sharks are no more deadly than delicious fatty foods," writes Jason Selby in *Discover* magazine. But "instinct is wrong" he adds. In fact, eating food that tastes good but is actually too fat for us is a far greater threat than shark bites. That's just one example of how our uneducated urges can sometimes lead us astray. I invite you to keep this possibility in mind during the coming week, Scorpio. ♏

Byrd means certain that you write *revels* your natural inclinations, but it is crucial that you monitor the flow with acute clarity and wit.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 16) Through some strange intervention, a sad or fated mad story will get twisted prior to the first turn of the plot. And as you're plodding ready to make your sign-off, an X-factor or wildcard will appear transforming the meaning of a series of puzzling events. This may not generate a perfectly happy ending, but it will at least result in an interesting and relaxing climax. What is the precise nature of the X-factor or wild card? Perhaps a big secret will be revealed or some missing evidence will arrive or a mental block will crumble. And it's likely that you will have an epiphany about how solvable your problem has actually been.

[illegible]

**PISCES** (Feb. 18-March 20) You just might be able to touch a statue to talk this week — or at least coo a sweet message out of a stone-like person. You could also probably extract a delicious clue from out of the darkness or wrangle in tricky blessing from an adversary or find a small treasure hidden in a fog mass. In short, Pisces, you now have a knack for accessing beauty and truth in unexpected sources. You can see what everyone else is blind to and how what everyone else has given up on. You're practically a superhero. Use your powers wisely my friend. [bit.ly/1300000](http://bit.ly/1300000)

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Journal of Management Education 34(1)

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# COMICS

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by TOM TOMORROW



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CHRISTMAS IS GONNA GET WEIRD THIS YEAR





















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